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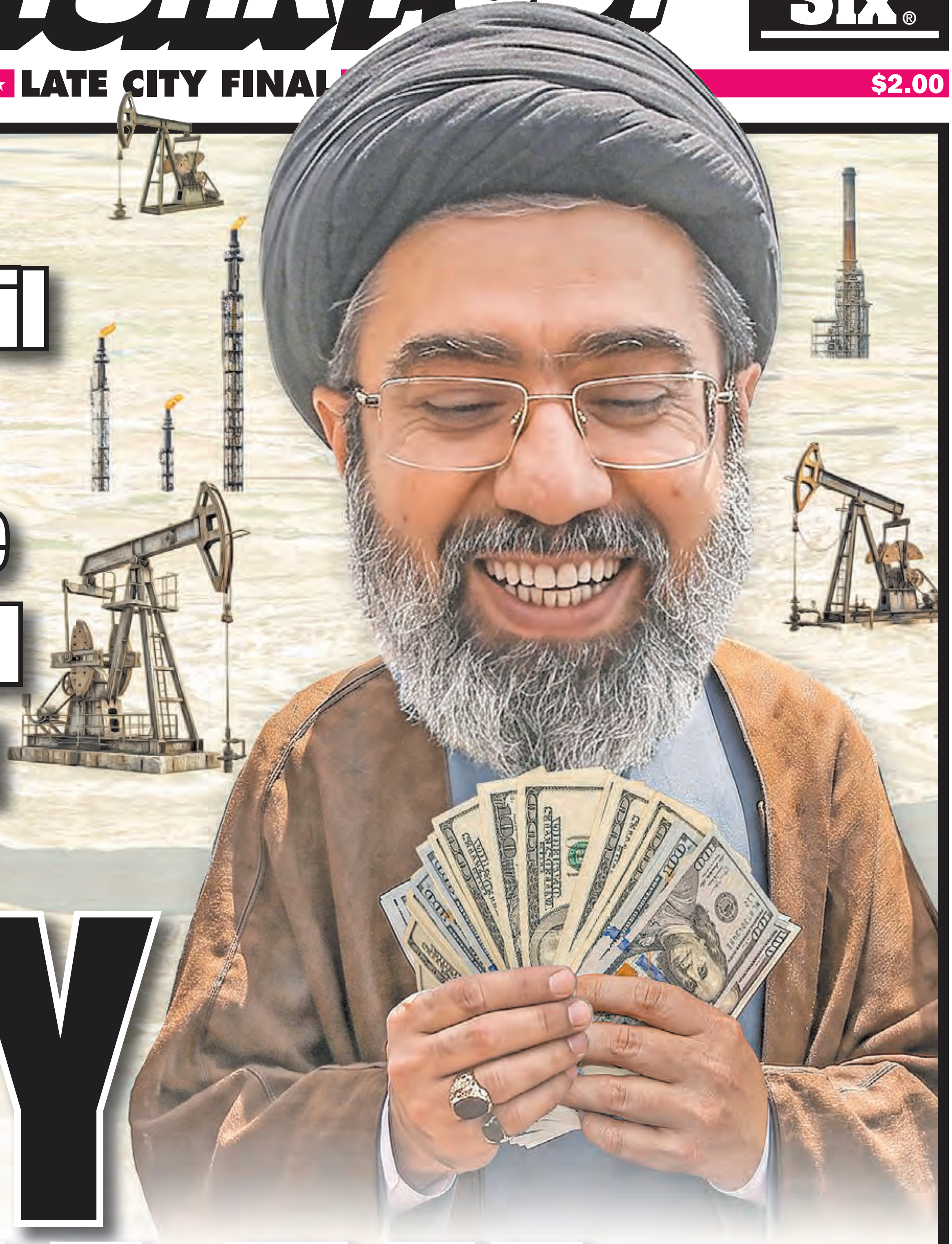
Iran getting $10 billion oil boost from US — before signing a full nuclear deal



EASY MULLAH

The US is lifting all sanctions on Iranian oil for the next 60 days during peace negotiations, a tremendous windfall that gives the Islamic dictatorship an extra $10 billion to rebuild its regime. While Vice President JD Vance says Iran has agreed to international nuclear inspectors, no full agreement has been signed yet.

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Tam Nguyen / NY Post Design

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‘Vonn’ in the sun & healing

Olympic skiing legend Lindsey Vonn trades snowy peaks for the warm waters of Saint-Tropez, France. Diving off a luxury yacht in a white bikini, Vonn, 41, was not shy about the scar left by a surgery after a crash that almost claimed her leg at the Winter Games.

BACKGRID

STATE’S ‘GAMES’ PLAN

NY’s ’42 Olympic bid

By VAUGHN GOLDEN

The Empire State is gearing up to make a pitch for the 2042 Winter Olympics, a move that would bring the games back to the upstate site of 1980’s “Miracle on Ice” — and to New York City for the first time.

Gov. Hochul announced Monday an exploratory committee that will decide whether to bring the Winter Games back to New York, with events split between Lake Placid and the Big Apple in a model similar to the Milano Cortina games this year.

“Milano Cortina showcased the immense possibility that comes with a dual city Olympic Games,” Hochul said. “It’s clear we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build on Lake Placid’s Olympic legacy, New York City’s global platform and the strengths that make our state unique.”

‘Feel the vibe’

Mayor Mamdani told reporters at an unrelated event Monday that he wants to “feel the rhythm, feel the vibe” and start early for potentially planning.

“When anyone asks me about the Winter Olympics, the first thing that comes to mind is feel the rhythm, feel the vibe,” Mamdani said.

Hochul has been teasing making a formal pitch for the Olympics, saying in March that the state was “primed” to host the games for the third time — and the first since 1980, when the US team beat Russia, 4-3 in a showdown many consider to be one of the best underdog stories of all time.

New York also hosted the Winter Games in 1932.

The exploratory committee includes reps from state and city government as well as other key private- and public-sector stakeholders.

‘Another miracle in NY’

Assemblyman Bobby Carroll (D-Brooklyn), a major driver of the effort, has emphasized how this year’s Olympics — which held events in Milan and elsewhere in northern Italy — present a model for the arena events in the Big Apple and downhill competitions in the Adirondacks.

“Forty-five years after the Miracle on Ice, it’s time for another miracle in New York,” Carroll said.

Two-time Olympic medalist Andrew Weibrecht, who was named as a co-chair of the games operations subcommittee of the panel, told The Post in March that it would be “silly” for New York not to try to bid for a games.

“In terms of being able to host the elite-level athletes across sliding, certainly alpine skiing, Nordic skiing, biathlon — those are all there at this point. The state’s made a tremendous investment in this area,” Weibrecht said.

Switzerland is currently in “privileged” talks with the International Olympic Committee to host the 2038 games. Canada and Norway are preparing offers as backups or for future sites for 2042 and onward.

Visiting comet is 12 billion years old

Scientists studying the comet 3I/ATLAS have determined the interstellar visitor is ancient — formed an 10 billion to 12 billion years ago in a primordial planetary system — and has a composition unlike anything in our solar system.

The comet, which has a diameter of 1.6 miles, is likely the oldest-known object to venture through the solar system, a study published Monday in Nature found.

“We have never before seen an object like 3I/ATLAS,” NASA researcher and lead author Martin Cordiner said. *Reuters*

Two-month lift of oil-sale sanctions could

By STEVEN NELSON
and JOSH CHRISTENSON

TEHRAN GETS A SLICK DEAL

CENTRAL BANK OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
50000 RIALS
FIFTY THOUSAND RIALS
CENTRAL BANK OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

CRUDE AWAKENING: The US has agreed to a two-month lift of oil sanctions for Iran, a move that could allow Tehran to earn up to $10 billion

WASHINGTON — The US government on Monday formally waived oil sanctions on Iran for two months — allowing for up to $10 billion in revenue as nuclear talks continued with Iranian officials in Switzerland.

The Treasury Department waiver lasts through Aug. 21, giving Iran the ability to openly sell its oil for the first time since the 1990s, meaning it will pocket new profits by charging market rate.

The waiver follows President Trump last week lifting the two-month US naval blockade of Iranian ports as part of a memorandum of understanding.

It could allow Iran to take in an estimated $60 billion annually — or $10 billion for the two-month window — without having to be paid under the table.

Tehran has long sold its oil, mostly to China, in violation of US sanctions and can now eliminate discounts of about $8-$10 per barrel, according to market analysis cited in US government reports.

Assuming an additional $10 per barrel, these new market-rate transactions could translate into roughly $14 million in additional daily profits — or about $840 million over the 60-day window.

The figure isn't precise because it depends on oil prices, which are plunging as the Strait of Hormuz reopens pursuant to the US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding signed last week.

The higher range also assumes that Iran's oil infrastructure centered on Kharg Island is fully operational.

Price for resumption

Clay Seigle, a non-resident scholar with the CSIS Energy Security and Climate Change Program, pegged the figure closer to $8 billion for Iran over the 60-day negotiating period based on current market conditions.

"Before the war, Iran was under pretty strict sanctions that scared away all their traditional customers . . . except for China, which was not afraid to defy the United States," Seigle said.

Tehran produced roughly 3 million barrels of oil per day and exported 1.6 million of those, he noted.

Now, with China not the only buyer, Iran will benefit from being able to sell its oil and "transact in US dollars," he added. "It could even be delivered to the United States."

"There's a possibility for Iran during the next few months to ramp up higher than the 1.6 [million barrel] exports," Seigle said. "They probably could get closer to 2 million barrels per day."

"Let's imagine that they're going to get around $70 a barrel, so $140 million a day times 60 days, you're talking about $8 billion-plus dollars."

"This is the price for getting the exports resumed from the Gulf post-war," Siegle underscored. "Helping Iran discover it can put this chokehold on the world's economy whenever it wants."

Despite that, some Gulf nations such as UAE and Saudi Arabia have been able to divert millions of barrels through pipelines to avoid the Strait of Hormuz, amounting to roughly four million barrels in exports per day.

The US has also tapped strategic reserves.

But both are "a bridge for the main problem, which is Hormuz," he said.

'Expands' buyer pool

An oil-industry source added that the "limited duration" of the waivers "is unlikely to support a meaningful increase in Iranian production," with "near-term exports" instead relying on already-stored barrels or cargo on tankers.

"A temporary waiver expands the pool of potential buyers, with India and other Asian importers among the most likely customers," the source noted.

"Iran also has an estimated 120 million barrels of crude oil already loaded onto tankers — roughly 40 million barrels still in the Persian Gulf and another 80 million barrels already en route to Asia — which could support a relatively quick rebound in exports," the source said.

"Prior to recent disruptions, Iran was exporting roughly 2.4 million barrels per day of crude oil and petroleum products, and volumes could recover toward that level with some initial upside from inventories. Sustaining exports above those levels, however, would likely require longer-term waivers and greater certainty."

Vice President JD Vance, who took part in implementation talks with Iranian officials on Sunday and Monday in

Reuters

net regime $10B

ATLASPRESS

by shipping as many as 2 million barrels per day around the world.

Switzerland, defended the looming action last week, saying sanctions were difficult to enforce before the war and did not impede Iran's exports to China, which then paid outside the US-governed international banking system.

Other incentives

The easing of oil sales is part of a trio of financial inducements for Iran to give up its highly enriched uranium following the signing of the MOU to end the nearly four-month war.

The Trump administration is also offering to unfreeze more than $100 billion in Iranian assets and facilitate a $300 billion Gulf Arab-financed reconstruction fund.

The inducements would be granted in phases, contingent on Iranian steps to relinquish uranium and sever aid to terrorist proxies.

Vance said Monday in Switzerland that unfrozen funds would not go directly to Iran, but would buy "American soy, American corn, and American wheat for the benefit of the Iranian people."

A similar concept was applied to $6 billion released in 2023 by then-President Joe Biden in exchange for five US citizens jailed in Iran.

That money was transferred to Qatar for humanitarian purchases — but the release was paused when Iran-backed Hamas rampaged through southern Israel weeks later.

WE'LL PASS: The shipping industry won't comply with Iran's planned toll for passing the Strait of Hormuz. "The current Iranian proposal or directive is unacceptable and not workable for commercial shipping," one insider told The Post.

Getty Images

Tolling is strait-up extortion

Refusal to comply

By JAMES FRANEY

As high-stakes negotiations to end the Iran war continue in Switzerland, the maritime industry's message to the White House is clear: Don't allow Iran to formalize its tolling racket over the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran wants all commercial shipping vessels to register with a newly formed Iranian agency in order to pass through the narrow entry to the oil-rich Persian Gulf — but Western insurance underwriters are refusing to comply, slamming the mandate as a sanctions trap, The Post has learned.

Senior sources say unless US negotiators force Iran to completely dismantle its unilateral insurance mandates and fully clear international waters of underwater mines, trade in the region will never truly recover.

"The current Iranian proposal or directive is unacceptable and not workable for commercial shipping," one insider told The Post. "No country can unilaterally assert its jurisdiction over international waters. That has to be respected. If it isn't, you will not get transit back to pre-war levels. It's not possible."

'Economic weapon'

Under the guise of a 60-day truce, Tehran's newly formed Persian Gulf Strait Authority declared that all traditional shipping channels through the international waters of the strait are "prohibited."

But insiders told The Post insurance firms refuse to comply with a system they say is unworkable for the private sector.

"They're using the strait and their perceived control of the strait as an economic weapon against the United States and their allies," a senior source briefed on the matter said on the condition of anonymity. "It's basically an attempt to vandalize the global economy."

Tehran is dangling "free" insurance during the initial 60-day window, but the mandate explicitly reserves the right to levy steep premium fees down the line.

Global firms warn that signing on the dotted line would violate stringent US Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctions once premiums are paid. It also would force companies to rely on an Iranian legal system in which the West has "absolutely zero" confidence.

"No real legitimate shipping company internationally is going to buy insurance for their vessels from an insurance company they don't know, and with the law and jurisdiction of over that insurance in Iran," said one insider.

Instead, companies will likely continue to opt for shipping their goods through Oman under protection of the US military. Roughly 55 ships successfully navigated the narrower Omani channel over a recent weekend alone.

However, traffic remains severely bottlenecked compared with pre-war levels of more than 130 ships per day, primarily because the wider international waters remain littered with Iranian mines.

'Urgency' over mines

In the interim, Lloyd's of London recently launched a massive new insurance consortium led by American underwriting giant Chubb.

The facility provides up to $200 million for hull risk, $200 million in liability and $200 million for cargo, covering roughly 80% of the world's merchant ships transiting through the US-protected Omani channel.

"There is one urgent matter now: mine clearance," warned a senior EU diplomat. "Otherwise, there will be no benefit from the agreement — shipowners, ships' captains and insurance companies are not going to arrange a transit of the strait if they run the risk of seeing tankers blow up."

THE BATTLE FOR IRAN

UGC/AFP via Getty Images

3K 'traitors' arrested

Regime crackdown

By RONNY REYES

In recent months, Iran has arrested more than 3,000 citizens and accused them of collaborating with "the enemy," the nation's judiciary said Monday.

The Islamic Republic has taken 3,292 people into custody, claiming 684 individuals carried out "operational actions" for Israel, Iranian Judiciary spokesperson Asghar Jahangir told Tehran's semi-official Student News Network.

Another 1,258 were accused of carrying out political propaganda against the state, with 1,061 indictments issued so far on the individuals in custody.

Along with the arrests, Jahangir noted that the assets of hundreds of suspected traitors have been confiscated by the state.

Last week, the judiciary claimed that it had seized the properties of 100 "traitors" in the Isfahan province alone.

Iran in January arrested more than 50,000 people in the wake of the anti-regime protests (above) that led to a bloody crackdown.

Tehran has since gone after citizens who allegedly aided the US-Israeli joint airstrikes.

"As the Zionist enemy and the US are attempting to invade Iran, they simultaneously activate mercenaries and spies to carry out riots as the next step," a provincial branch of the Revolutionary Guards' intelligence organization said at the time.

Iran, however, has been accused by human rights groups of carrying out mass arrests and coercing false confessions.

"[Iran is] using the cover of what they call 'wartime conditions' to intensify their repression of dissent through ... politically motivated executions, harsh prison sentences, and asset confiscations," Amnesty International warned last month.

IRGC World Cup ruse

A man connected to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps was prevented from entering the US with the Islamic Republic's national soccer team, according to Department of Homeland Security chief Markwayne Mullin.

The unidentified man was posing as the president of Iran's soccer federation when he was stopped as the team was gearing up to fly from Tijuana, Mexico, for its World Cup game against Belgium at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles on Saturday, Mullin told Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures."

"When we started doing the research on him, he had only been put in place since 2022, and we didn't allow him to board the plane,' Mullin said, adding that the man who attempted to board the plane had "direct ties to IRGC."

Chris Nesi

JD: DUST

Iran 'agrees to nuke inspects'

By SAMUEL CHAMBERLAIN,
CAITLIN DOORNBOS
and STEVEN NELSON

WASHINGTON — Iran will allow United Nations nuclear inspectors into the country following two days of talks in Switzerland, Vice President JD Vance announced Monday — despite Iran putting out mixed messages.

"The Iranians have agreed to invite [International Atomic Energy Agency] inspectors back into their country," Vance said at a press conference in Lucerne before returning to Washington.

"That is a major milestone for the American people and the first step in permanently denuclearizing, or permanently ending a nuclear weapons program in Iran."

Vance admitted before boarding Air Force Two that "we're going to see what they actually let the inspectors do once they're in the country."

'Respect us'

US negotiators want the inspectors to identify the locations of Iran's estimated 1,000 pounds of near-weapons-grade uranium as a first step toward retrieving and then down-blending it.

The Vance-led talks also produced a plan to use an unspecified amount of frozen Iranian funds to buy US agricultural products.

Hours later, the Treasury Department formally lifted sanctions on Iranian oil for 60 days — a financial windfall described in last week's memorandum of understanding to end the nearly four-month war.

"As long as they respect us, we're not going to have any trouble," Trump said Monday afternoon in the Oval Office.

Trump said that the US negotiating team was doing a "fantastic job" — as the Lucerne talks continue with lower-level staff after Vance's departure.

"If Iran doesn't live up to their agreement, or if they're not behaving, I will do what I have to do," the president added.

Trump celebrated some of the developments on Truth Social, writing, "everybody is fully aware that Iran will agree to have Major Weapons Inspections in order to ensure 'Nuclear Honesty' long into the future."

As soon as the progress was reported, however, Iranian leaders began undercutting the apparent progress — a recurring feature in months of peace talks culminating in the MOU.

The semi-official Tasnim News Agency reported: "The issue of granting permission for IAEA inspectors to enter Iran was not approved by the Iranian negotiating team or by responsible government officials."

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei told state-run IRNA that "Iran's interactions with the agency, in line with its obligations under safeguard agreements, will continue according to the existing framework."

The existing situation has not allowed IAEA inspectors to access three nuclear facilities bombed by the US in Operation Midnight Hammer.

Vance urged reporters to be skeptical of claims from Iranian propaganda organs.

'Confusing negotiators'

"We laid a very good foundation for a successful final deal," Vance insisted.

"The final deal is the house. We set the foundation, we haven't built the house, but we've laid a successful foundation."

Vance acknowledged that working with the Iranians can be "confusing."

"I've spent a lot of time dealing with the Iranians over the last few months. Sometimes I find them extremely confusing as negotiators," he said.

"I would just encourage the media [to] mistrust a little bit what you see coming out of Iranian social media. They can be confusing negotiators, but we feel like we're making progress."

The vice president also claimed Iran and the US had established "mechanisms" to resolve disputes over the Strait of Hormuz as well as the latest cease-fire between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon — which appeared to be holding as of Monday morning.

Vance did not elaborate beyond saying the plan entailed "actually talking to each other and figuring out how to stop the shooting."

IS SETTLED

VANCE'S ATOMIC BREAKTHROUGH: Vice President JD Vance, pictured close to Jared Kushner at peace talks in Switzerland, said Monday that Iran agreed to allow UN nuclear inspection.

Getty Images

A joint statement by mediators from Pakistan and Qatar said a "de-confliction cell" involving the US, Iran and Lebanon — but apparently not Israel or Hezbollah — would be created to "ensure the adherence of the termination of military operations in Lebanon."

Vance credited Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner with coming up with the idea of using frozen Iranian funds to buy US soybeans, corn and wheat, calling it "a classic Trump deal, where if Iranian assets are ever unfrozen, they're going to go to make American farmers richer and to feed the Iranian people.

"That's a very, very good and very classic Trump deal that's great for our people, great for the people of Iran and fundamentally, again, will contribute to this regional security architecture that we've built, and that we're going to work very hard to ensure that it endures," he added.

Iranian sources pushed back on the assertion, calling it "Western propaganda."

Vance did not mention concrete agreements on the nuclear issue — Trump's primary goal for the talks — or on Iran's ballistic missile program.

MAGA & GOP tepid on terms of deal

President Trump's deal with Iran hasn't gotten rave reviews from his biggest supporters.

A CBS News poll found 56% of self-identified MAGA voters said the US should end the conflict with Iran now, while 44% said the US should continue the war until "Iran gives up more." For all self-identified Republicans surveyed, 60% believe the conflict should end and 40% said war should continue to get more Iranian concessions.

What's more, Republicans aren't overwhelmingly convinced Trump signed a deal that was beneficial for the US.

CBS polling found that 47% of MAGA supporters say the agreement is better for the US, while 12% believe it's better for Iran and 41% say it's "about equal" for each country. Among all Republicans, only 39% said the deal is better for the US, 19% see it as better for Iran, and 42% see the deal as equal.

The official 14-point deal with Iran was released last week just as the poll was conducted from Wednesday to Friday. The plan has received rare pushback from GOP politicians, some of whom wanted the US to keep up the fight and demand a better deal.

Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.) said in an X post that "[former President Ronald] Reagan is rolling over in his grave" over the deal.

"Iran's nuclear ambitions were not curbed, and they have learned that threatening the Strait of Hormuz works," he wrote.

Ally Geolz

Israel not leaving Lebanon

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted Monday his forces will remain in southern Lebanon despite the recent US-Iran deal "de-confliction cell."

"IDF troops in southern Lebanon have full freedom of operation to engage any direct or emerging threat to them or to the residents of northern Israel," said Netanyahu, according to a translated video of his Hebrew-language remarks. "The IDF has no restrictions in this regard."

The de-confliction cell — which emerged Sunday from the first high-level US-Iran talks held under the newly minted Memorandum of Understanding — aims to prevent a return to full-scale conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, which Iran insists must be settled.

Vice President JD Vance said on Monday that the aim is to lower the temperature.

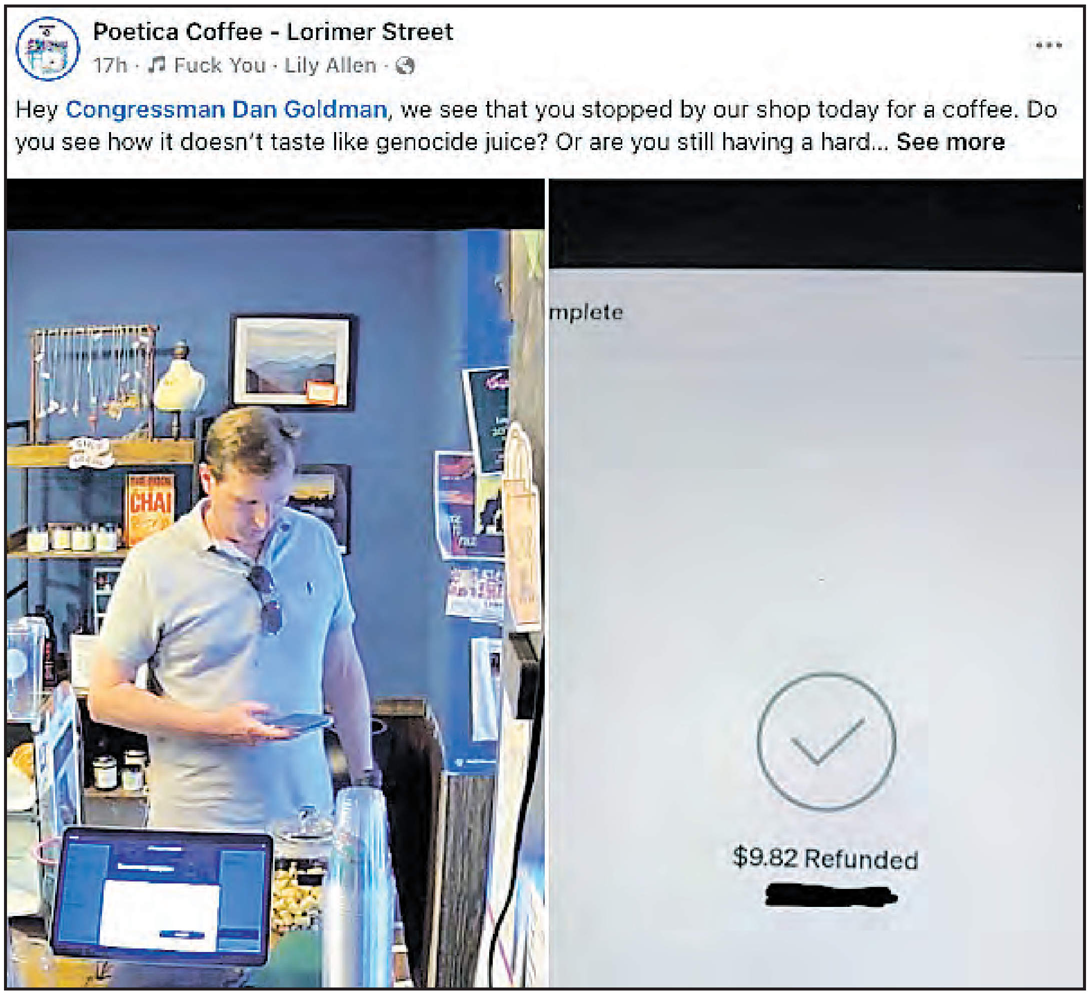
"Sometimes you have a bit of a chicken and an egg problem. You have a junior guy who fires a drone; of course Israel has to respond," he told reporters in Switzerland. "Sometimes that response, we could have a better and more peaceful situation if Israel responds in the context of a conversation that is ongoing between Hezbollah, Lebanon, Israel and other partners in the region."

Caitlin Doornbos

Foaming over Israel

Lib cafe rejects pol's $$

By JORDAN DONEGAN,
CARL CAMPANILE and
MATT TROUTMAN



Poetica Coffee - Lorimer Street
17h · ♫ Fuck You · Lily Allen ·

Hey Congressman Dan Goldman, we see that you stopped by our shop today for a coffee. Do you see how it doesn't taste like genocide juice? Or are you still having a hard... See more

[redacted]

Poetica Coffee / Facebook

JOLTING: Poetica Coffee uses a pic of Rep. Dan Goldman in a post saying they didn't want his money.

Hospitality for everyone, except supporters of Israel.

A crunchy coffee shop flamed pro-Israel Rep. Dan Goldman for buying a cup of java at its Brooklyn location and issued him a refund, declaring it doesn't serve "genocide enablers."

Poetica Coffee revealed the unasked-for $9.82 refund in a bitter Facebook post Sunday, with a picture of a hapless Goldman — who faces a tough Democratic primary challenge from former city Comptroller Brad Lander — in the Park Slope shop.

"Hey Congressman Dan Goldman, we see that you stopped by our shop today for a coffee. Do you see how it doesn't taste like genocide juice? Or are you still having a hard time telling the difference?" the post stated, seemingly referring to Goldman's support for Israel and accusations that it has committed genocide against Palestinians.

"Here at Poetica, we don't serve racists, fascists, homophobes, genocide enablers, or anyone in between. Too bad we didn't recognize you right away, or we would have turned you away. We issued you a refund — we don't need your money (it's probably coming from AIPAC anyways). Enjoy your loss on Tuesday. Don't ever come to Poetica."

Poetica's note "gave the game away" by conspiratorially mentioning the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, contended Mark Goldfeder, director of the National Advocacy Jewish Center.

"They put a huge amount of Jewish people on notice that they are not welcome," Goldfeder said. "It's not just about Dan Goldman."

Vio-latte'd

Mark Treyger, CEO of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, argued the effective ban of Goldman "absolutely violates" discrimination laws.

"Turning a cup of coffee into a Jewish identity litmus test is an affront to the law, our values, and every New Yorker who rejects discrimination," he said.

State Attorney General Letitia James' office, as well as Mayor Mamdani's office and the city's Department of Consumer and Worker Protection didn't respond to requests for comment on potential violations.

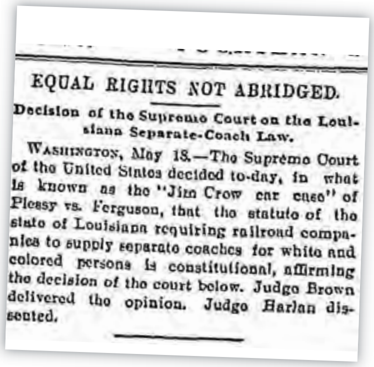
Other advocates and customers noted it contradicted the chain's mission statement, outlined on its website under owner Parviz Mukhamadkulov's name.

"The guest is sacred because the act of welcoming is how a community keeps itself intact," the statement reads.

Goldman responded by noting he bought a coffee out of courtesy for the shop allowing his daughter to use the restroom.

"I am sorry to see this post," he said in a statement. "The barista could not have been nicer to my 7-year-old daughter and me . . . I made sure to buy a coffee in return for her kindness. I hope you at least make sure she gets the tip that she deserved."

A Poetica staffer on Monday said, "No comment. We stand against genocide."



EQUAL RIGHTS NOT ABRIDGED.

Decision of the Supreme Court on the Louisiana Separate-Coach Law.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—The Supreme Court of the United States decided to-day, in what is known as the "Jim Crow car case" of Plessy vs. Ferguson, that the statute of the state of Louisiana requiring railroad companies to supply separate coaches for white and colored persons is constitutional, affirming the decision of the court below. Judge Brown delivered the opinion. Judge Harlan dissented.

Separate but equal is upheld

The Post is counting down to America's 250th birthday next year with a look back at the nation's — and the paper's — history. Every day leading up to the big event on July 4, 2026, we're publishing notable covers and stories from our archives:

Plessy v. Ferguson
May 18, 1896

A small item reported on the Supreme Court case of Plessy v. Ferguson. With just one dissenter, Justice John Marshall Harlan, the high court ruled that racial segregation was "constitutional" as long as the facilities were the same quality, establishing the doctrine "separate but equal."

Happy
250th,
USA!

The case began with an incident in Louisiana in 1892, when a mixed-race man named Homer Plessy boarded a whites-only New Orleans train car. He was charged with violating the state's 1890 Separate Car Act, which segregated black and white passengers into different train coaches. His attorneys unsuccessfully argued that the charge should be dismissed on the grounds of being unconstitutional.

The ruling was effectively overturned with 1954's Brown v. Board of Education, which found that separate schools were inherently unequal. *Lauren Sarner*

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LOTTERY

NEW YORK
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■ Midday Take-5 Mon.: **3, 18, 22, 27, 36**
■ Evening Nos. Mon.: **771**
■ Evening Win-4 Mon.: **4405**
■ Evening Take-5 Mon.: **1, 13, 15, 17, 37**
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■ Millionaire for Life Mon.: **7, 8, 20, 24, 42**; MB: **5**
■ Powerball Mon.: **17, 19, 21 45, 48**; PB: **13**; PP: **x2**; DP: **18, 41, 43, 64, 65**; PB: **25**

NEW JERSEY
■ Pick-3 Mon.: **887;** Fireball: **4**
■ Pick-4 Mon.: **0231;** Fireball: **4**
■ Cash-5 Xtra Mon.: **2, 14, 17, 27, 37**; Xtra: **4**

CONNECTICUT
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■ Play-4 Mon.: **1510;** Wild: **0**
■ Cash-5 Mon.: **1, 2, 7, 11, 26**

POST CONTACTS

Editorial

Main Office	(212) 930-8000
News Tips	(212) 930-8500
Sports Desk	(212) 930-8700

Circulation and Home Delivery

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DOJ sues NY over fed mask ban law

The Department of Justice is suing New York over a law set to take effect this week that would bar federal agents from wearing masks, opening them up to "harassment, tracking, intimidation, and assaults."

Associate Attorney General Stanley Woodward, Assistant Attorney General Brett Shumate and other DOJ attorneys in the Civil Division filed the lawsuit Monday in Buffalo federal court, alleging Gov. Hochul tucked the unconstitutional law into the state's annual budget.

"Gov. Hochul cannot tell Federal officers how to do their job," Woodward said. "And she certainly cannot prohibit them from ensuring their own safety in conducting Federal law enforcement operations."

The suit, which also names New York Attorney General Letitia James, claims the Face Covering and Identification Acts "violate the principles of intergovernmental immunity and the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution," according to the 40-page filing, which notes that the law is set to take effect June 26.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, DEA agents and others would be subject "to criminal penalties" for wearing masks.

Other provisions in the Empire State budget also run afoul of federal law by requiring local governments to terminate enforcement agreements with the feds, the lawsuit contends.

"Increasingly, members of the public photograph, film, and publish federal enforcement actions online and include the personal identities of federal officers for the sole purpose of intimidation and harassment," the suit states.

"By hiding their faces and refusing to wear identification, federal immigration officers endanger New Yorkers and intentionally evade accountability," James said.

Added Hochul: "New Yorkers deserve to know who is enforcing the law in their communities."

Josh Christenson

Music legend Davis dies, 94

By AUDREY ROCK
and CARLOS GREER

A STAR IS MADE: Clive Davis presents Whitney Houston with a platinum record for "I'm Your Baby Tonight" in 1990 during his stint as president of Arista Records.

Michael Ochs Archives / Getty Images

AN EAR FOR GREATNESS

Music executive Clive Davis, the "man with the golden ears" who discovered artists from Janis Joplin to Bruce Springsteen to Billy Joel to Whitney Houston, died on Monday in Manhattan. He was 94.

Davis started in the legal department at Columbia Records in the early 1960s but quickly became interested in developing young artists. He was appointed president of Columbia Records at the age of 35 in 1967.

After visiting the Monterey Pop Festival that year, Davis signed Janis Joplin and her band, Big Brother and the Holding Company.

He became founder and president of Arista Records in 1974, a post he held until 2000, when he founded J Records. He never left the music industry, serving as chief creative officer of Sony Music Entertainment from late 2008 until his death.

Under the newly founded Arista label, he personally selected and pitched the 1974 song "Mandy" to Barry Manilow, which became the label's first hit record.

The hundreds of chart-topping singles overseen by the music legend over the decades include Whitney Houston's "Greatest Love of All," Simon & Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water," Billy Joel's "Piano Man," Santana's "Smooth," Alicia Keys' "Fallin'" and Kelly Clarkson's "Since U Been Gone," among many others.

'Value of music'

Davis was known for his iconic pre-Grammy parties, which began in 1975.

In an interview, Davis once addressed the practical role his pre-Grammy parties had in launching the careers of so many artists.

"Well, all you can really do for an artist is create an opportunity to be seen by tastemakers," he said. "But if they don't have the goods to back it up, it just becomes another social function. The value of the music shouldn't be undermined."

As for Davis' own remarkable eye for talent, he told Playboy magazine in 2013, "I didn't necessarily have an ear, but I think I developed one. Whether there was a natural ear that was triggered, I don't know the answer to that. But when you see a Joplin or a Springsteen, you know. And the statistics start mounting and give you confidence. You think, 'My God, yeah, I did say yes to Santana.' "

Getty Images

EARLY SIGNS: Johnny Cash signs a contract with Davis in the 1960s, when as a lawyer at Columbia Records he shifted to developing talent.

The staggering influence he's exerted over the industry — he won five Grammy Awards and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, as a non-performer, in 2000 — was almost happenstance, he once divulged.

"I had no idea that I was ever getting into music," he told the Guardian. "I did not prepare for a music career, and here I've found, out of pure luck, that I did have, not only a talent and an ear, but a passion for music. And I have it to this day."

Final weeks in NYC

Davis spent his final weeks doing what he loved, gallivanting around New York City, going to his favorite restaurants, attending and hosting friends to watch the Knicks. On May 29, he was forced to slow down after being hospitalized with a respiratory infection. Former Post critic Michael Riedel, a close friend, told us he was expected to escort him to a concert to see Air Supply, an Australian band he helped break through into America.

"They had one song that had a lyric that only made sense in Australia. Clive changed one word and he was very proud of the fact that he got royalties," Riedel recalled.

Mam stands by ‘monster’ rant

Controversy over AIPAC

By HANNAH FIERICK
and CRAIG MCCARTHY

Mayor Mamdani doubled down on branding a pro-Israel super PAC as “monsters” — even as Jewish New Yorkers warned the word choice could incite violence.

Hizzoner took aim at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee last week during a rally with Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), saying “these monsters take many forms today.”

Mamdani on Monday stood by the characterization.

“I used the term to describe all those who are preventing the birth of a new world, not solely a PAC, but frankly, super PACs at large, who are spending millions of dollars in deceptive and misleading ads that are blanketing airwaves,” he told reporters Monday at an unrelated City Hall presser.

Mamdani stood by his rant at the Kings Theatre, where he shamelessly railed against AIPAC and Israel.

“In AIPAC, for whom the only thing more frightening than democracy being allowed to run its course is an end to genocide and Netanyahu’s wars,” the mayor said last week at the Kings Theatre in Brooklyn.

“They move millions in dark money to accomplish a single goal, to preserve their power so that they can turn us against one another.”

In the days since, vocal Jewish New Yorkers called the rhetoric dangerous and worried it would incite violence.

Chaim Steinmetz, a senior rabbi of the Kehilath Jeshurun synagogue on Manhattan’s Upper East Side, railed online, “This is pure incitement.”

“Mamdani is accusing AIPAC of being a monster that subverts democracy, supports genocide and wants to divide Americans,” he continued.

hfierick@nypost.com

KC’s ‘free bus’ fail

Farewell, fare free-for-all.

The US city that inspired Mayor Mamdani’s pie-in-the-sky idea to provide Big Apple commuters free bus service is now slapping fares back on riders after its $50 million experiment ran dry.

Kansas City, Mo., brought bus fares back this month as its operating costs ballooned to about $15 million a year — nearly double the initial expected price tag, Bloomberg reported.

The zero-fare bus service was slammed by Missouri riders and conductors as unreliable, filthy, rolling homeless shelters once federal funds dried up — lining up exactly with what critics argued would happen if Mamdani’s mayoral campaign promise for free buses took root in the Big Apple.

“This is my shocked face,” Rich Azzopardi, the main mouthpiece for Mamdani’s campaign rival Andrew Cuomo, said sarcastically after learning the wheels fell off Kansas City’s bus program. *Craig McCarthy*

Maher rejects Knicks speech

Bill Maher was having none of lefty Rep. Ro Khanna’s attempt to paint New York City Mayor Mamdani as a unifier-in-chief following his Knicks’ championship parade speech — as he blasted the socialist for being “pals” with terrorists.

When Maher asked the California Democrat on Friday’s episode of “Real Time with Bill Maher” if he considers Mamdani “a great one,” Khanna said, “I do, I mean, did you see his Knicks speech?”

An unimpressed Maher fired back: “Well it doesn’t make me forget that his wife loved [the] Oct. 7 attack on Israel and that he pals around with terrorists.”

Khanna proposed Mamdani be a guest on Maher’s show and Maher said, “I would love that.” *Chris Nesi*

DSA primary

DAVID ORKIN
Queens District 38

EON HUNTLEY
Brooklyn District 56

By CARL CAMPANILE

It’s an Empire State red alert.

The Democratic Socialists of America are backing eight candidates in effort to double their ranks in the state Legislature — with one of the crew an insurgent looking to take down the Harlem political establishment.

A crew of radicals with soft-on-crime stances who back policies such as legalizing prostitution will take on moderate candidates in Tuesday’s primary elections, in an effort to widen the DSA’s influence in state government.

Here are some of the high-profile DSA challengers looking to increase the left-leaning crew’s ranks to 16 next year:

Conrad Blackburn

Blackburn is running in District 70 against Assemblyman Jordan Wright, the son of Manhattan Democratic leader and longtime Harlem power broker Keith Wright.

Blackburn, a public defender, has said he wants to go easier on criminals supports sending convicted rapists, child molesters and murderers to “treatment programs” instead of prisons.

“Even if, like, the client is guilty as f--king sin, I still don’t think that the punishment, like, meets what happened,” said Blackburn, who served as staff lawyer for nonprofit Bronx Defenders, on the 2024 “Brothers In Law” podcast he co-hosts.

“I still don’t think that person deserves to be thrown in a cage and locked away for the rest of their life. So that’s how I come at those cases. It’s like cool, this person did maybe . . . something bad to somebody,” he added.

“But, like, what are we gonna do about that? . . . I don’t think it’s prison.”

Former foes Rep. Adriano Espaillat and Wright have even cross-endorsed each other to form a coalition to repel the DSA invasion.

Five-term incumbent Espaillat also faces a DSA challenge from Darializa Avila Chevalier, a candidate with a series of controversial social media posts who is backed by Mayor Mamdani.

Tate and Huntley

Christian Celeste Tate is looking to topple Assemblyman Erik Dilan in Brooklyn District 54 and Eon Huntley is running against incumbent Stefani Zinerman in Brooklyn AD 56.

State Sen. Julia Salazar, a DSA member, defeated eight-term incumbent Martin Dilan, Erik’s father, in 2018.

Tate told the Jim Owles Liberal Democratic LGBT Club that he would “champion the decriminalization of sex work” because “sex work is work.” He also backed reducing prison sentences for convicted criminals, saying, “Our approach to incarceration has not made us safer.”

Huntley supports decriminalizing prostitution and also wants to lessen prison sentences for convicts, telling the Jim Owles Club in an endorsement questionnaire, “We must end the scourge of mass incarceration in New York, whether in local jails or in state prisons.”

David Orkin

Lefty attorney Orkin is running against Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar in Queens District 38, which has a heavy South Asian and Indo-Caribbean population in the neighborhoods of Richmond Hill, Ozone Park, Glendale, Ridgewood and Woodhaven.

Rajkumar, a moderate, had close ties to former Mayor Eric Adams.

Orkin also wants to lighten up on punishment for criminals, telling the Jim Owles Club, “Our criminal justice system is built on the false premise that mass

blitz to send these radicals to Albany

A SURGE OF SOCIALISTS

CONRAD BLACKBURN
Harlem District 70
ABER KAWAS
Queens District 12

FAR-LEFT FLANK: On the heels of Mayor Mamdani's victory, the Democratic Socialists of America are vying to double their ranks in the Legislature — while candidates like Darializa Avila Chevalier (opposite page) aim to oust incumbents in Washington.

incarceration promotes public safety . . . To fix this broken system, we must move from a model of punishment to one rooted in restoration and care."

Diana Moreno

The DSA supports the re-election of Assemblywoman Moreno, who replaced Mamdani after he was elected mayor, in District 36 covering Astoria and Long Island City.

Aber Kawas

Palestinian activist Kawas is facing off against Assemblyman Steven Raga in the race to replace retiring Sen. Michael Gianaris in the 12th District covering western Queens.

Raga, the first Filipino-American elected to the Legislature, has the backing of Queens Borough President Donovan Richards and major unions, including the United Federation of Teachers, 1199 SEIU, NYS Nurses' Association, District Council 37, among others.

Illapa Sairitupa

Tenant organizer Sairitupa is running for the open seat in District 65 covering the Lower East Side and Chinatown, left vacant as Assemblywoman Grace Lee runs for state Senate.

Sairitupa also has the backing of Mamdani and the Working Families Party. His rivals for the nomination are Jasmin Sanchez, Lilah Mejia, Wei-Li Tjong and Jay Jacky Wong.

Samantha Kattan

Kattan is the DSA candidate running to replace Assemblywoman Claire Valdez in District 37 because Valdez is running for Congress. The district includes the DSA strongholds of Sunnyside, Long Island City, Woodside, Maspeth and Ridgewood.

Other races

- Assemblywoman Jessica González-Rojas is running against incumbent Sen. Jessica Ramos in the 13th District that covers Corona, East Elmhurst and Jackson Heights.

González-Rojas has the backing of the WFP, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Borough President Richards and major unions.

Many on the political left turned on Ramos, a former darling, after she endorsed Andrew Cuomo for mayor last year. Ramos also opposed Mets owner Steven Cohen's planned casino.

- Ex-con Assemblyman Eddie Gibbs is facing a tough primary from former Councilwoman Diana Ayala in East Harlem's District 68.
- Lefty Jibreel Jalloh is challenging conservative Democratic Assemblywoman Jaime Williams in District 59 that includes the hardscrabble neighborhoods of Canarsie, Mill Basin and Marine Park.

Williams opposed the migrant shelter at Floyd Bennett Field in her district and caught flak for endorsing Republican Curtis Sliwa for mayor last year.

Zo pal: No deports, full stop

Mayor Mamdani wouldn't distance himself from a hand-picked House candidate with a series of unhinged social media posts who now says she is against deporting anyone —even if they committed heinous crimes.

Hizzoner's candidate in New York's 13th Congressional District, Darializa Avila Chevalier, made the radical omission late last week in an interview that all deportations are "wrong."

"If we are saying all deportation is wrong, though, that would seem to also include people who were convicted of breaking US criminal law," the Vox reporter asked, adding, "Is the deportation wrong for those people?"

"Yes," the 34-year-old socialist responded.

"I'm looking forward to making sure that a city where more than 3 million New Yorkers are of an immigrant background, including myself, is one where they understand we're going to follow the laws that we have, and we're proud to do," Mamdani said when pressed for a response.

Hannah Fierick

Stuck in a 'high rise'

Costs of homes on the 'up & up'

By ALEX OLIVEIRA

Owning a home has become a money pit, with the costs of insurance, taxes, mortgage payments and repairs growing dramatically faster than inflation, according to a report.

American homeowners in 2025 spent, on average, about $28,500 on basic costs.

That's up from the $20,000 of 2019, before the pandemic, The Wall Street Journal reported.

It's an increase that's outpaced inflation by about $3,000, with 2019's $20,000 worth about $25,500 in 2025, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

And the results of those costs are clear: Far fewer people are buying homes today than they were before the pandemic.

Interest-ing culprit

Only about 4 million homes have been sold each year since 2023, compared to the roughly 5.5 million annually before the pandemic, the Journal reported.

The biggest cost increase is obvious to anyone who has bought a home in the past few years: interest rates.

Mortgage rates were less than 3% during the pandemic, but more than doubled to over 6% by 2022 and have held steady since.

That means people's buying power has nearly halved: Buyers on a $2,500 monthly budget could afford a $517,000 house with a 20% down payment under the 3% rate, while the same budget could only afford a $384,000 house at today's 6.5% rate.

Maintenance costs have risen by nearly 40% since the pandemic, with Americans spending an average of $9,000 on home upkeep in 2019, and $12,500 in 2025 as labor and material costs soar.

Insurance costs also soared across the country after years of severe weather, ranging from historic hurricanes to increasingly violent wildfires.

Iowa has watched home-insurance rates climb 91% since 2021, while Florida rates have jumped 35%, according to the Journal.

Even fundamentals like electricity costs are climbing.

One kilowatt hour of power cost about 12.5 cents in 2019, but cost nearly 19 cents as of March 2026.

Many Americans simply can't keep up with the costs.

More foreclosures

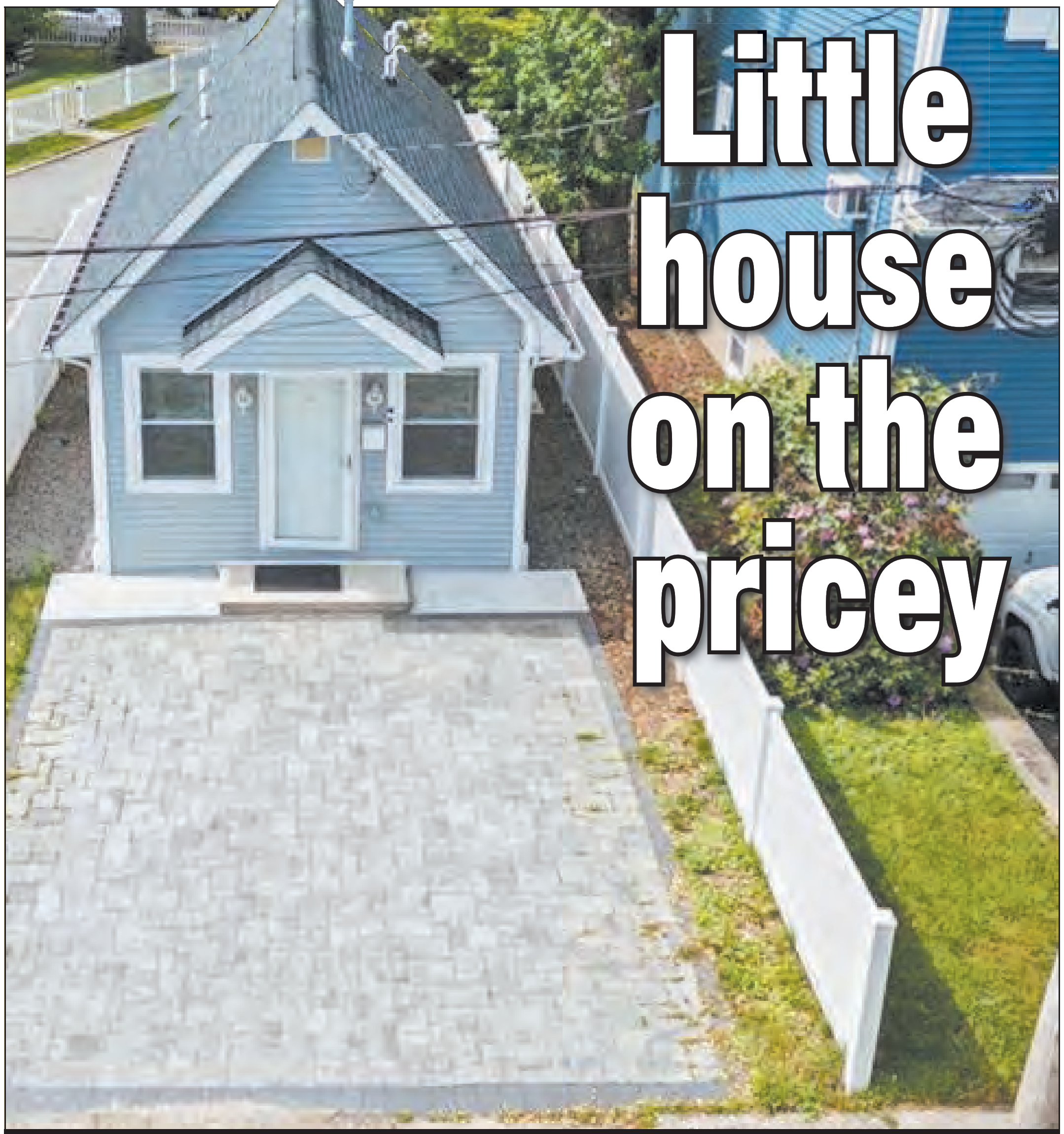
In addition to sales slumping, foreclosure rates hit a six-year high across America in 2026, jumping 26% in the first quarter from the same period a year earlier, the Journal reported.

That placed the number of properties foreclosing at around 119,000, compared to the roughly 30,500 foreclosed in 2020.

It's a return to pre-pandemic levels — 2019's fourth quarter saw about 110,000 foreclosures — but one which has been increasing steadily year by year, while foreclosure rates before the pandemic had been steadily dropping since 2010 and the 2008 recession.

aoliveira@nypost.com

Little house on the pricey



A tiny house in New Jersey is making big waves after hitting the market for the very large price of $499,000.

At first glance, you could be forgiven for thinking there had been a mistake with the listing price.

It seems almost ludicrous that a petite one-bedroom, one-bathroom house with a square footage so small that it isn't even featured on the listing could fetch anywhere close to half a million dollars.

But as it turns out, its prime corner lot in the town of Bogota could prove appealing to the right kind of buyer.

According to Realtor.com data, Bogota had just five active listings in May — down from pre-pandemic levels, which saw around 20 properties on the market in the borough at any one time.

And while the price tag may seem enormous when compared to the pint-sized property it is attached to, it is actually well below the median listing prices for both Bogota and Bergen County, which currently sit at $700,000 and $799,000, respectively.

Charlie Lankston

NJMLS

Realty big Pino cleared

Florida real-estate mogul George Pino was found not guilty Monday of smashing his boat into a channel marker, leading to the death of a 17-year-old girl.

The jury in Miami-Dade County deliberated for about two hours before finding Pino, 55, not guilty of felony second-degree manslaughter and vessel homicide charges in the 2022 crash that killed Luciana "Lucy" Fernandez and left another girl, then 18, with permanent and debilitating injuries.

The father and well-known Doral real-estate broker had been hosting several teen girls for his daughter Carolina's 18th birthday on his 29-foot boat when they crashed in Biscayne Bay on Sept. 4, 2022.

Pino was accused of driving the boat at 47 miles per hour when it slammed into the channel marker, tearing a large hole in the side of the vessel and sending all of the passengers — including his wife, Cecilia, and 12 teen girls — into the water.

Eleven people were injured, and six were taken to the hospital.

Fernandez, who was reportedly trapped underneath the boat after it crashed, died from drowning-related injuries in the hospital about 12 hours later. *Georgia Worrell*

Tourists flee lava shower

Terrified tourists were seen scrambling for cover as they were pelted with lava from an exploding volcano in Guatemala.

Hikers tried to avoid being struck by chunks of burning rocks after Volcán de Fuego erupted, and the blast sent plumes of smoke billowing into the air.

"Oh, my God, holy s--t!" one hiker yelled in a video shared by AccuWeather on Friday.

"Run! Run!" she said as the noise reverberated.

Rocks were seen glowing on the ground, and one person even poured bottled water over the bright red debris. *Chris Bradford*

‘QUEUE’ THE INSANITY

Stefano Giovannini

MARISSA MATOZZO

Long line-waiting bizarrely trendy

THERE was once a time when waiting in line was one of the few things New Yorkers universally hated.

Remember the classic “Seinfeld” episode “The Chinese Restaurant?”

Jerry, George and Elaine spend an entire episode waiting for a table that never opens — and that’s the joke.

They’re miserable. They’re frustrated. They’re counting every wasted minute.

Back then, waiting for something while being a part of a line was something New Yorkers endured. Today, it’s something they actively seek out.

On any given weekend, New Yorkers can be found waiting an hour for a salted brown butter iced latte at Caffe Paradiso, two hours for mediocre pancakes at Bubby’s, three hours for a sample sale and even longer for whatever TikTok has declared essential that week.

Even the simple joy of grabbing an ice cream cone on a hot summer day has been taken away as buzzy spots like Cafè Panna draw massive lines of eager scavengers looking to satisfy their taste buds with the latest flavor the Gramercy cafe has posted about on its social media pages.

‘Line epidemic’

And don’t get me started on the lackluster $11 Dot Cakes offered by luxe grocer Butterfield Market that sent New Yorkers into a frenzy.

Or how about last month’s mob scene of hundreds camping out for days outside Times Square and Soho Swatch Stores hoping to score a Swatch x Audemars Piguet collaboration watch.

Somewhere along the way, Gothamites stopped treating lines as a problem and started treating them as a lifestyle. The line has become New York’s newest social club.

TikTok videos of customers waiting two hours for noodles or pastries don’t discourage people from going — they convince them to join the queue.

I’m hardly the only person who thinks New York’s line culture has spiraled out of control.

Popular TikTok creator Matt Peterson has built a following by spotlighting restaurants that “don’t have lines” — and, in his opinion, deserve more attention because of it.

In video after video, Peterson warns viewers that “there’s a line epidemic in New York City.”

The phenomenon has become so widespread that creators are now documenting the lines themselves as a form of content.

Steve Cuozzo

WAIT, WHAT? New Yorkers seem to actively seek out long lines like these for Apollo Bagels (top) and Butterfield Market (above).

Earlier this month, creator Renata D’Agrella Kenen went viral after walking through Soho and challenging herself to count how many lines she could find within a 10-block radius.

The answer? Eight.

Kenen documented tourists, transplants and others waiting for a Coach pop-up that was handing out free cherry matchas, a long line outside a generic Blank Street Coffee spot, another big one outside Mimi’s Frozen Yogurt, another for a Chase Bank ice cream activation, a massive queue for Leon’s Bagels, one for New York or Nowhere merchandise and yet another outside the neighborhood’s Reformation location.

“Line culture in NYC has gotten so crazy,” she wrote.

I agree. Nothing is that delicious, or that free, that it’s worth waiting 45 minutes in blistering heat.

It’s time to step out of line.

2M bees take wing

Some two million bees escaped after an 18-wheeler carrying beehives crashed in Texas.

Photographs from the scene shared by Queen Bee Supply show beekeepers frantically trying to corral the vast swarms of bees loudly buzzing around the overturned truck in Mauriceville on Sunday.

Local officials had put out the call to all local beekeepers to help with the chaotic cleanup, KBTX reported.

“Not something you ever want to see, but so nice to see beekeepers helping beekeepers. From commercial outfits to backyard beekeepers, grateful for everyone that came out and helped,” the company wrote in a social-media post.

Patrick Reilly

GOP pols’ red alert vs. ActBlue

The leaders of three Republican House committees threatened Monday to hold Democratic fundraising powerhouse ActBlue in contempt of Congress after the firm refused to turn over more than 400 documents, citing attorney-client privilege.

A letter from House Administration Committee Chairman Bryan Steil (R-Wis.), Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), and Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer (R-Ky.) gave ActBlue until Friday to provide the messages, including statements by two lawyers indicating the fundraiser was not being forthcoming about overseas donations illegally funneled to Democratic campaigns.

“These documents reportedly contain evidence that ActBlue accepted foreign donations, misled Congress, and then retaliated against an employee who spoke up about it,” the lawmakers wrote.

One ActBlue lawyer resigned in 2025 after a call with leadership, reportedly warning the fundraiser was “not fully committed to transparently addressing” foreign donations.

Later, lawyer, Zain Ahmad, said in an internal Slack message, “he was retaliated against for blowing the whistle on internal misconduct,” lawmakers said. *Samuel Chamberlain*

Cautionary tale for moderate Dems

BRENDAN O'NEILL

DOWNING IN FLAMES: Keir Starmer resigns as UK prime minister Monday, while Andy Burnham (above) is set to replace him.

Getty Images

Keir chose to lib dangerously

IT'S amazing to think Keir Starmer was sold to us Brits as Mr. Sensible.

He'll be gloriously boring and that's just what we need, said his media cheerleaders when he was elected prime minister in July 2024.

After the tumult of Brexit, the wacky Boris Johnson years and all that lockdown lunacy, we need a little calm, they said.

Enter Sir Keir.

He's a "safe pair of hands," said every talking head.

"The grown-ups are back in charge," cried The Guardian.

Fast-forward 23 months and Starmer has thrown in the towel.

Far from steadying the good ship Britain, he's left it in an unholy mess.

Starmer's Britain is a nation scarred by riots, fractured by social division, overrun with illegal immigrants and full of fuming Brits demanding to know how it all went so wrong.

I'll tell you how: Because while Starmer posed as a sensible centrist, he let himself be dragged ever more leftward.

He promised to put out the fires of the Culture Wars, but ended up taking the side of the crackpot left in their infernal battle with normalcy. He bowed to the progressive bigotry that treats patriotism as racism, criticism of radical Islam as a "phobia" and freedom of speech as a threat to the social fabric.

Starmerite socialism

There's a lesson here for America's Democratic Party: Fail to make a break with your lunatic wing, and you too could end up in the garbage pail of history alongside Sir Keir.

Starmer bowed out with tears in his eyes as he announced his resignation outside 10 Downing St. on Monday.

He says he'll oversee an "orderly transfer" of power.

Britain could have a new prime minister as early as next month.

We know who it will be: Andy Burnham, the long-serving mayor of Manchester who won a seat in the House of Commons in a by-election last week.

Burnham has gone to Parliament with one aim: to push out Sir Keir and take his throne.

If it is an "orderly transfer," it will be the only orderly thing Starmer has done.

Everything else lies in ruins.

The economy has been sacrificed to the cult of welfarism.

Under Sir Keir the UK reached the grim milestone of paying out more in welfare than it receives in income tax.

Our broken state now forks out $441 billion a year to the workless, while pulling in just $438 billion from people who work.

This isn't an accident — it's Starmerite socialism in action.

Earlier this month, a WhatsApp message sent by one of Starmer's Cabinet ministers was leaked.

It moaned that the only thing they discuss in government these days is "Who can we tax in order to pay benefits to others?"

Decent Brits are fuming over this hiking of their tax bills to pay ever fatter salaries to the lanyard classes. And worse, to fund the four-star bed and board of the hundreds of unvetted men who land on our shores every week.

We are forced to pay for the upkeep of blokes from backward countries who commit heinous crimes against our women and girls — true madness.

Our energy infrastructure is decaying too, thanks to Starmer's appointment of Net Zero nut Ed Miliband as his environment secretary.

Like a true "End is Nigh" cultist, Miliband thinks Earth will burn if we frack for gas or drill for oil in the North Sea.

'Immigration & energy'

President Trump was bang on when he said Starmer "failed badly" on two big issues: "immigration and energy." Our borders are broken and our abundant natural resources are stuck underground — all because of woke ideology.

Then there was Starmer's disdain for everyday Brits.

When people hoisted up the England flag last summer, in defiance of the fashionably ashamed elites, he sneered.

One of his MPs said her "stomach churned" at the sight of these "tatty bits of cloth" — what a way to talk about the national banner.

Starmer tried to enforce a definition of "Islamophobia" to curb what us oiks can say about Islam.

His patrician impulse was always to tame public feeling.

Back in 2020, he took the knee for career criminal George Floyd; this year he flat out refused to take the knee for Henry Nowak, the sweet British student who was brutally murdered by a Sikh and then manhandled by police who falsely suspected him of racism.

It was Starmer summed up.

He genuflected to the BLM idiocy — but wagged his finger when Brits took the knee for white Henry Nowak.

Starmer shows where leftist nuttiness leads. His Labour Party, like the Dems, has turned its back on the working classes and thrown its lot in with the elitist drivel of graduate radicals. We end up with ever stiffer taxes, infinite "asylum-seekers," woke censorship, an energy crisis and working-class anger.

Let Starmer's downfall be a lesson to leftist parties everywhere.

Brendan O'Neill is chief political writer for the British online magazine spiked.

Blanche, Pirro OK for case

WASHINGTON — A federal judge ruled Monday that Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche and DC US Attorney Jeanine Pirro would not be removed from the case against White House Correspondents' Dinner shooting suspect Cole Allen.

Lawyers for Allen — accused of crashing the April 25 soiree armed with two guns and knives with the aim of killing President Trump and members of his cabinet — had argued that Blanche and Pirro were conflicted by their attendance at the Washington Hilton that evening, as well as their closeness with Trump and statements about the incident.

DC US District Judge Trevor McFadden disagreed, writing in an 18-page opinion that the two "are unlikely to be trial witnesses, nor do they meet the legal definition of victims. Their statements about the investigation and friendships with the president likewise present no basis for screening them from the case."

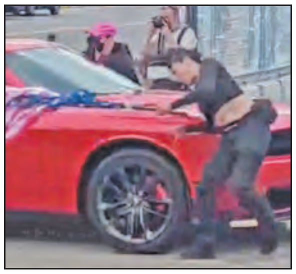
Allen was federally indicted on May 5 on charges of attempting to assassinate the president, assault on an officer of the US with a deadly weapon, transporting a firearm and discharging it during a crime of violence. *Josh Christenson and Samuel Chamberlain*

Lottery-rob cash grab

A Florida Walmart cashier allegedly swiped a winning lottery ticket worth nearly $3,000 from an elderly customer trying to collect his payout Sunday.

Tameka Hall, 40, was busted after being caught on surveillance folding up the customer's winning lottery receipt and stuffing it into her uniform pocket before walking out of the DeLand superstore, said court documents obtained by WKMG.

Police said the victim went to Walmart to cash in his $2,700 lottery ticket and Hall explained the process — but never provided the receipt needed to redeem it for the money. *Anna Young*



Instagram/@durganyc

REVVED UP: The protester was waving an upside-down American flag when she was struck.

Anti-ICE protester hit by car

Video shows a protester being hit by a car outside Delaney Hall as dozens of agitators descended on the ICE facility, calling for dads to be released on Father's Day.

Footage shows the woman waving an upside-down American flag — a symbol of distress or dissent — while blocking the Newark facility. A red Dodge Challenger then drives in, hitting the dancing protester and continuing on its way as she rolls off to shouts from others.

The protester had come from Minnesota and was not seriously injured, Visible Brigade, a New Jersey-based activist group, told Pix 11.

The group claimed the car was driven by an employee of the GEO Group, the private company that operates the 1,000-bed facility, but that has not been confirmed.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement did not immediately respond to requests for additional information.

Patrick Reilly

Golf buzzed by abort-pill ad

Golf fans attending the third round of the US Open at Shinnecock Hills on Saturday were left stunned when an airplane buzzed the course towing an advertisement promoting obtaining abortion pills by mail.

The ad was paid for by Mayday Health, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit dedicated to highlighting the availability of abortion medication and birth control pills across the country.

The banner flew over the Southampton property for about 90 minutes, witnesses said.

Ryan King

REIN & SUFFERING

MOURNING: A crowd — including Councilman Chris Marte, who sponsored a bill to ban horse carriages — attends Monday's Central Park vigil for a teen killed during a ride.

James Messerschmidt (2)

Call on Big Apple to nix horse carriages

By NICOLE ROSENTHAL

Stricken kin of the teen tourist fatally tossed from a Central Park horse carriage demanded Monday that the city ban the industry — saying anything less suggests his death was just "a temporary inconvenience."

Tragic Romanch Mahajan's grieving family said in an emotional letter read at a vigil for him in the park that the city needs to take "immediate decisive action . . . to permanently phase out horse-drawn carriages before another life is lost."

"The industry responsible for my nephew's death is preparing to resume passenger tours this Tuesday, treating the loss of Romanch's life as a temporary inconvenience," said Gaurav Mahajan, Romanch's uncle, in the letter to the mayor's office.

Such a move is a "profound insult to our family and a direct threat to the public safety of every tourist and resident in New York City," Gaurav Mahajan said. "Allowing these carriages back onto the streets while our family is planning a funeral proves that the city values an antiquated novelty over human life. We demand that you use the full power of your office to halt the resumption of these rides immediately."

A temporary moratorium on the rides was voluntarily instituted by the drivers' union after Romanch, 18, died during a carriage ride with his parents and little brother Wednesday while in town from India to celebrate his high-school graduation.

The carriage driver allegedly flouted safety protocols and got out to take photos of the family when the horse bolted.

The embattled local industry's temporary halt on the rides is set to be lifted Tuesday.

"We will have safety teams in the park tomorrow when drivers return to service to provide oversight and retraining," said TWU Local 100 administrative vice president Alexander Kemp, who represents more than 300 horse carriage drivers and owners.

Monday's vigil was also held to announce Ryder's Law, a bill before City Council that would phase out the horse carriages, was being changed to Romanch's Law by its latest sponsor, Councilman Chris Marte, a Democrat.

Under the bill, it would take two years to phase out the carriages to fully transition their drivers to new jobs, Marte said at the vigil, attended by about a dozen people consisting of his staff and animal advocates.

Activists noted City Hall could halt the industry by filing an emergency injunction against the drivers. But a City Hall rep Monday argued that the industry is authorized by local law and must also be undone by the same process.

REE
THE
ORSES

CALL FOR CHANGE: It was also announced that a bill to phase out the horse carriages was being renamed Romanch's Law after the victim.

Page Six®

Ian Mohr
imohr@nypost.com

Oli Coleman
ocoleman@nypost.com
Mara Siegler
msiegler@nypost.com
Carlos Greer
cgreer@nypost.com

Will keep Lure-ing them over

IT'S not going to be the one that got away! The "soul of Soho," as **Ken Burns** put it, is here to stay.

Prada had made plans to expand its Mercer Street store into its basement — which has been the home of Lure Fishbar for 22 years — by opening its own eatery, Pasticceria Marchesi, there instead.

But after an uproar in the neighborhood and a campaign to keep Lure alive, Page Six has learned that the Italian fashion house has struck a deal with its owners, saving the spot.

"For more than two decades, Prada and Lure Fishbar have defined this iconic corner of Soho. We are proud to continue our long-standing relationship and ensure that legacy remains part of the neighborhood for years to come," Prada president **Carlo Croso** said in a statement.

The fate of the seafood favorite at 142 Mercer St. had been hanging in the balance since December 2024.

Along with Burns, **Chris Rock**, **Cindy Crawford**, **Heidi Klum**, **Justin Theroux**, **Wyclef Jean** and **Jay McInerney** all spoke out to save the restaurant.

"It's my favorite spot in the city," Rock, who frequently dines at Lure with fellow comics **Dave Chappelle** and **David Spade**, previously told The Post.

Lure owner **John McDonald** told us, "I've slept a lot better this past week knowing Lure Fishbar isn't going anywhere.

"I always had hope this would end well, and that's exactly what happened," he said. "We're staying at 142 Mercer. The magic of that dining room will remain, and with Prada alongside us it will only grow stronger."

McDonald added, "And to everyone who spoke up and shared what this place means to them, it goes without saying how much I appreciate it. I look forward to many more memories on Mercer."

The building is owned by famed real-estate honcho and art collector **Peter Brant**.

Out of the rough

NOT everyone hates him! After **Wyndham Clark** won the US Open under a hail of boos and taunts from the crowd ("New York hated me," he noted), the champ celebrated at Dune Deck in Westhampton on Sunday night, Page Six has learned. He was hosted by venue owner **Mike Meldman**, "Stick" producer **Ben Silverman** and **Silas Anthony**. Page Six hears that all the guests drank out of the championship cup, and the golf superstar was joined by his girlfriend, influencer **Emily Tanner**, and fellow golfer **Ryder Cowan**. Clark has developed a bad reputation after a number of angry outbursts both on the course and in the clubhouse. He's since apologized.

'Hot' . . . or not

WE are so sorry to burst **Jerry O'Connell**'s bubble. Over the weekend, the "Stand By Me" star and TV host posted an Instagram video of his view of the Montauk Yacht Club with the distant sounds of "Hot To Go!" and his daughter dancing. "No joke. **Chappell Roan** is playing . . . this wedding and we feel like Gatsby looking out at Daisy," he captioned the post. However, a rep for the hotel tells us that the famously prickly "Femininomenon" singer (above) "did not perform at Montauk Yacht Club this past weekend for a wedding."

Barbara Hine/DDP/INSTARimages

Elle's belles! Lexi Minetree (of Amazon Prime's new series "Elle") makes a "pinky" promise with Reese Witherspoon (of 2001's "Legally Blonde") at the "Elle World" party downtown.

Shoot went Welsh

QUENTIN Tarantino and **Kylie Minogue** had residents of a tiny town in Wales doing double takes over the weekend when they were seen filming in Porthcawl — population 16,000. A local Welsh outlet reported the pop star and the "Pulp Fiction" director "filming a movie in several locations at the seaside," including "scenes of a funeral at Newton Church and a wake at the Saltwater Inn." Turns out they are co-starring in a film by **Jamie Adams**, a town resident. Tarantino starred in another film by Adams, "Only What We Carry," that debuted this month at Tribeca Festival.

Sightings

KEVIN Bacon celebrating Father's Day with his wife, **Kyra Sedgwick**, and their daughter at Carversteak . . . **GAIL Simmons**, **Maayan Zilberman**, **Jake Cohen**, **Alex Edelman**, **Niki Russ Federman** and more at the Great Nosh Jewish food festival on Governors Island.

email us: tips@PageSix.com

Gotham meatup

"THE Studio," **Seth Rogen**'s Apple TV show about Hollywood, is following one of La La Land's biggest trends — heading out of town. The Post's **Johnny Oleksinski** has learned that a Season 2 episode of last year's Emmy Award winner for Best Comedy Series will take place here in NYC, with one scene set in Gallagher's Steakhouse on West 52nd Street. Recently, Rogen (above), who plays studio head Matt Remick, and **Ike Barinholtz**, as VP Sal Saperstein, filmed a scene at the 99-year-old Manhattan institution's bar before the eatery opened for the day. The spot also featured in 2002's "Analyze That."

Uber's service takes a 'dive'

DID someone call a SCUBA? The summer season has started off with a wild drive and dive in the Hamptons. A source tells Page Six that on Saturday: "An Uber driver drove straight into someone's pool in the posh estate section of Southampton on Wickapogue Road last night, and he said he was just following his GPS." Wickapogue is where the estate of late Sire Records founder Seymour Stein — who famously signed **Madonna**, the Ramones and Talking Heads — is up for sale for $15 million. Local Southampton Village police exclusively confirmed the incident to us. "Officers responded to a report of an occupied vehicle in to a pool," reads a "blotter narrative" from a responding officer. "Upon arrival the listed subject was still in the vehicle and the vehicle was only partially submerged." The report notes the driver, who was not injured, "stated he was an Uber driver and was just following his GPS." While it's so far unclear which home's pool became a temporary parking spot, there's at least one listing on Zillow for a new construction property on Wickapogue that hit the market days ago, and is going for $14.7 million. (Apparently, GPS hasn't caught up!)

EXCLUSIVE
People
PHOTOS

Marcin Pawlowski, Charming Images

Fox News reporter **Jacqui Heinrich** walked down the aisle at St. Patrick's Cathedral to wed Rep. **Brian Fitzpatrick**, R-Pa.

More celebrity photos at PageSix.com

Reporter & Rep. make it official

FOX News senior White House correspondent **Jacqui Heinrich** and Rep. **Brian Fitzpatrick**, R-Pa. (left), tied the knot Saturday in a New York wedding that blended family traditions, political star power and a nod to the couple's shared roots, writes The Post's **Ariel Zilber**. Heinrich, 37, and Fitzpatrick, 52, exchanged vows at St. Patrick's Cathedral before celebrating with over 300 guests on a yacht cruising New York Harbor. The ceremony was officiated by Cardinal **Timothy Dolan**. "We wanted the day to reflect the people and traditions that have shaped our lives," the newlyweds told People. New York was special for them because it was Heinrich's first assignment as a network news reporter and Fitzpatrick's first posting as an FBI agent.

Payne's 9-year-old inherits $29M

LIAM Payne's minor son, **Bear**, will inherit about $29 million following Payne's death in 2024. The singer's 9-year-old boy, whom he had with ex **Cheryl Cole**, has been named the sole beneficiary of his estate, according to court docs obtained by TMZ. Because Payne did not have a will at the time of his death, Cole and music lawyer **Richard Bray** were named as administrators of his estate. However, they were only given the authority to collect and preserve his assets.

Madge film 'Hung Up' over cash

MADONNA says her biopic was scrapped because she had a "falling-out" with the studio over the budget. "I was supposed to make a movie about my life. I worked on my script for two years and spent two years at Universal Studios with the line producers doing budgeting and casting," she told Interview magazine. Madonna said she "needed a big budget" so the film could portray her "extraordinary life," but Universal "couldn't get their heads" around that. She even pitched shooting in Serbia and tried to buy back the script — but they offered an "extortionist's price." "Ozark" star **Julia Garner** had been set to play the Material Girl. Page Six reached out to Universal for comment.

Instagram/ashleygraham

Supermodel **Ashley Graham** will be avoiding those irksome tan lines this summer as she bronzes and snaps selfies outdoors.

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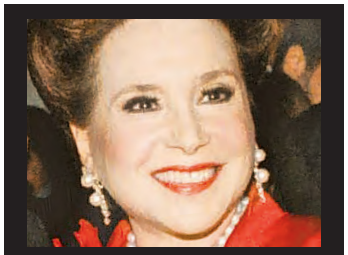


Cindy Adams

I recently chatted with **Davis Chatfield**, a professional golfer who'll be nice to me even though I don't know what it's like to play golf nor, with great respect, do I care.

Davis: "You can never perfect golf. If I practice 10 hours, doesn't mean I'll shoot great the next time I tee up. Takes self-belief to always think your next round's gonna be your best. It's a hard game. But easy on the body.

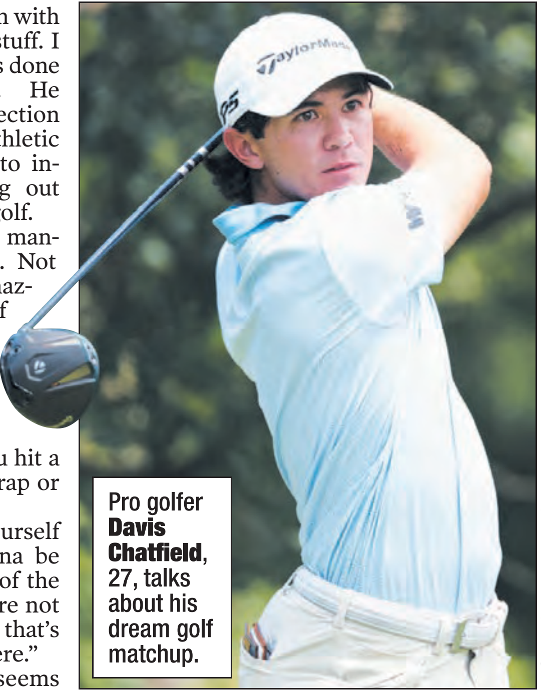
"A non-contact sport. Take a cart around, something you can do until you're 85. Great to socialize. Good way to kill five hours. The PGA Tour means the world's best players competing 30-plus times a year. I'm professional. Professional means you play for money. I always idolized **Tiger Woods** and **Rory McIlroy**. I wanted to be them."

Davis: "Tiger Woods hasn't played a ton with his injuries and stuff. I idolized what he's done for the sport. He changed the direction into a more athletic sport. First one to intertwine working out in the gym with golf.

"The key is to manage your misses. Not hit in the water hazard or out of bounds. And it's a lot of guys trying to get away from their wives."

And what if you hit a ball into a sand trap or water?

Davis: "Tell yourself everything's gonna be OK, not the end of the world cause you're not the only one that's gonna hit it in there."



Pro golfer **Davis Chatfield**, 27, talks about his dream golf matchup.

Stacy Revere/Getty Images

So golf always seems to be a lot of middle-aged guys who BS with one another, and say, 'Oh, my God, how far the hole is.' They can't do another frigging thing in their lives, but they're schlepping on grass hitting little balls.

Why don't they take up ping-pong? So a middle-ager who can barely get himself in and out of bed to take care of a woman, but he will get down on his knees to look at a crappy little ball. How does he get that strength together?

Davis: "Lies to his wife. Thinks he's got more strength in the tank than he's telling her and just wants out of the house."

Lovely. And who would you like to play a round of golf with?

Davis: "Tiger Woods. He's an idol of mine. Or **Scottie Scheffler**. He's No. 1 in the world now."

OK. I would like to say it's been a thrill speaking with you. It's just that I don't know what the hell you're talking about. Have you any trophies?

Davis: "Yes. But my parents threw some away because they were taking up too much room."

INTERNATIONAL wisdom: Hollywood. Where the movies are longer and the marriages shorter.

And for beauty? **Joan Collins**: "I don't take vitamins. I swear by men and as many as possible."

Only in the USA, kids, only in the USA.

Checking on city scenery

KYLIE Jenner and **Timothée Chalamet** were at ZZ's Club the other night. They were eating a lot of bread. Unseen is that they also have a lot of "bread."

Jerry Nadler was noticed on 83rd sweating and telling people he was hungry. He now demands to travel with *two* bodyguards. One just to guard his ego. Also to guard the snacks. Also any leftover bread.

George Conway campaigning on 84th and Columbus. It was around no one. He was just with his dog who stopped to take a No. 2. Looks like George might finish the primary taking a No. 4.

I'd have told you more — but I had to go inside. It was raining.

Post Weather Report

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Tuesday

Today: Humid with periods of rain. High 71 to 77.

Tonight: Becoming clear. Low 61 to 67.

Wednesday

Tomorrow: Partly sunny, warmer and less humid. High 81 to 87.

Tomorrow night: Mainly clear. Low 63 to 69.

Thursday

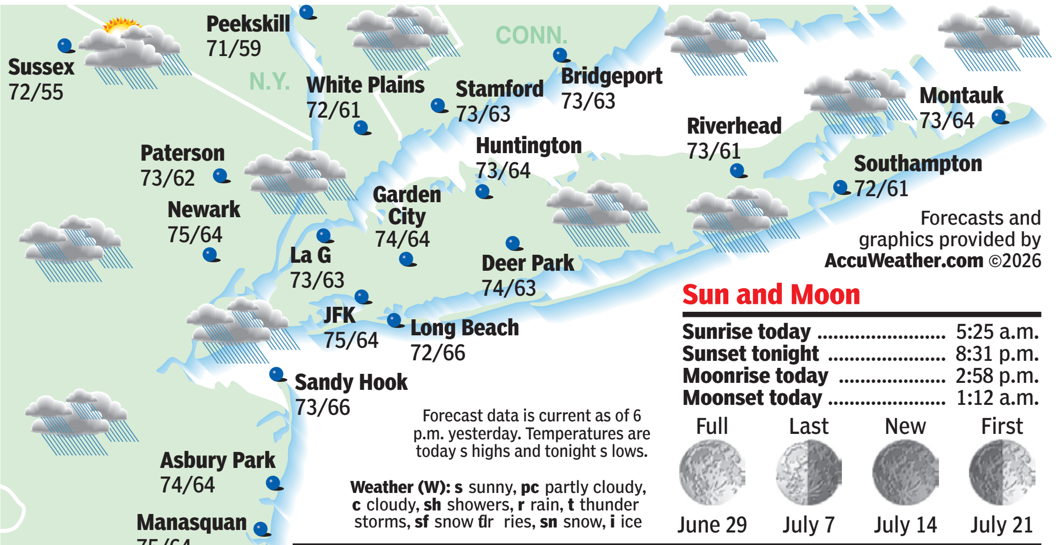
Partly sunny. High 78 to 84.

Evening
Showers around. Low 65 to 71.

Friday

Showers possible. High 75 to 81.

Evening
Some clouds. Low 65 to 71.


Sussex
72/55
Peekskill
71/59
N.Y.
CONN.
White Plains
72/61
Stamford
73/63
Bridgeport
73/63
Riverhead
73/61
Montauk
73/64
Southampton
72/61
Paterson
73/62
Huntington
73/64
Newark
75/64
Garden City
74/64
La G
73/63
Deer Park
74/63
JFK
75/64
Long Beach
72/66
Sandy Hook
73/66
Asbury Park
74/64
Manasquan
75/64
Toms River
78/61
N.J.
Long Beach
75/64
Atlantic City
79/63
Ocean City
77/65

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather.com** ©2026

Forecast data is current as of 6 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today s highs and tonight s lows.

Weather (W): s sunny, **pc** partly cloudy, **c** cloudy, **sh** showers, **r** rain, **t** thunder storms, **sf** snow flr ries, **sn** snow, **i** ice

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

Temperature
High: 73, Low: 69, Mean: 71

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: 3 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 0.58 , Month: 2.26 ,
Year: 16.69 , Normal year to date: 22.66

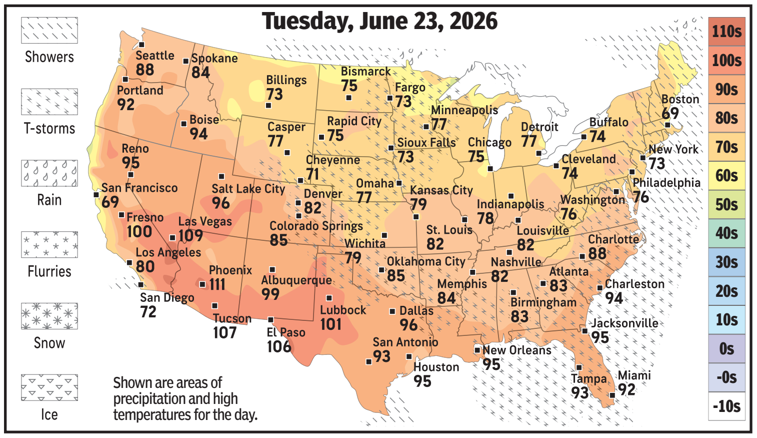
Cooling Degree days yesterday.................6
Total for the month (normal).......187 (144)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal)...........325 (225)
Last year to date 202
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 72
UV index (for Tue.) .... 3 (Moderate)
Humidity (at noon) 73%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Moderate Predominant pollen: Trees, Grasses, Weeds
AQI rating: (for Tue.)........................... Good

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today .... 5:25 a.m.
Sunset tonight .... 8:31 p.m.
Moonrise today .... 2:58 p.m.
Moonset today .... 1:12 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
June 29	July 7	July 14	July 21


Tuesday, June 23, 2026
Showers
T-storms
Rain
Flurries
Snow
Ice
110s
100s
90s
80s
70s
60s
50s
40s
30s
20s
10s
0s
-0s
-10s
Seattle 88
Spokane 84
Portland 92
Billings 73
Bismarck 75
Fargo 73
Boise 94
Casper 77
Rapid City 75
Minneapolis 77
Reno 95
Cheyenne 71
Sioux Falls 73
Chicago 75
Detroit 77
Buffalo 74
Boston 69
San Francisco 69
Salt Lake City 96
Denver 82
Omaha 77
Kansas City 79
Cleveland 74
New York 73
Philadelphia 76
Fresno 100
Las Vegas 109
Colorado Springs 85
Indianapolis 78
Washington 76
Los Angeles 80
Wichita 79
St. Louis 82
Louisville 82
Charlotte 88
Phoenix 111
Albuquerque 99
Oklahoma City 85
Nashville 82
Atlanta 83
Memphis 84
Charleston 94
San Diego 72
Lubbock 101
Dallas 96
Birmingham 83
Tucson 107
El Paso 106
San Antonio 93
Houston 95
New Orleans 95
Jacksonville 95
Tampa 93
Miami 92

Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.

New York Tides

High Tide for	TODAY 1st	TODAY 2nd	TOMORROW 1st	TOMORROW 2nd
Coney Island	3:06a	3:46p	3:59a	4:37p
Fire Island	3:15a	4:11p	4:18a	5:04p
Hempstead	7:28a	7:52p	8:30a	8:49p
Huntington	7:08a	7:32p	8:09a	8:28p
Jones Inlet	2:50a	3:30p	3:43a	4:21p
Montauk Point	4:30a	5:09p	5:30a	6:02p
Port Washington	7:37a	8:01p	8:39a	8:57p
Sandy Hook	3:10a	3:50p	4:03a	4:41p

Regional cities

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	76/55/pc	80/56/s
Danbury	72/58/r	81/55/pc
Glens Falls	76/52/sh	79/51/pc
Gr Barrington	72/55/r	79/52/s
Kingston	75/57/c	83/52/s
Liberty	71/54/pc	76/50/s
Monticello	73/53/c	76/53/pc
Newburgh	73/58/r	82/55/s
Poughkeepsie	73/56/r	81/53/s
Saratoga Springs	75/56/pc	81/55/pc
Stroudsburg	72/55/r	83/53/s
Torrington	71/57/r	81/54/s
Syracuse	74/54/pc	78/57/pc

World cities

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	92/71/s	89/71/s
Baghdad	120/84/pc	106/82/pc
Beijing	83/65/sh	88/63/s
Berlin	82/58/pc	89/66/pc
Cairo	95/73/pc	96/73/pc
Dublin	81/58/pc	71/59/s
Geneva	94/68/s	94/67/s
Hong Kong	93/85/r	93/85/t
Jerusalem	81/64/s	84/65/s
Kabul	89/64/s	91/66/s
London	95/72/s	99/69/s
Madrid	104/76/s	102/75/pc
Mexico City	76/57/r	73/58/t
Montreal	77/58/c	76/61/pc
Moscow	74/53/pc	70/54/pc
Paris	103/74/s	106/77/s
Rio de Janeiro	79/70/s	75/66/r
Rome	92/69/pc	91/71/s
Sydney	64/46/pc	66/56/s
Tokyo	78/65/c	81/69/c

Zendaya's 'web' sight

WireImage (2)

Zendaya wears a custom Louis Vuitton cropped vest and low-slung skirt while at a fan event for "Spider-Man: Brand New Day" in Berlin on Monday. She accessorized appropriately with a pair of spiderweb earrings by Lydia Courteille.

O, no-chre!

Colors hurt home price

Homeowners preparing to sell may want to rethink their paint choices before listing, according to new research from Zillow showing that certain colors can shave tens of thousands of dollars off a property's final sale price.

The real-estate platform's 2026 Paint Color Analysis surveyed more than 4,400 recent and prospective buyers and examined how bedroom, kitchen, living room and bathroom colors affected buyer interest, tour intentions and willingness to pay. The findings challenge the assumption that neutral whites are the safest bet for sellers.

The biggest loser? Ochre yellow.

When the muddy golden hue is applied throughout an entire home, it can reduce offers by an estimated $18,164, the study found. Just painting a kitchen that shade alone can knock $6,630 off a buyer's bid.

Fire-hydrant red bathrooms and pale pink walls also ranked among the worst performers.

On the flip side, sellers who choose their colors wisely could pocket thousands more at closing.

Chocolate brown bedrooms are the study's top performer, with the Sherwin-Williams shade Turkish Coffee associated with offers averaging $2,277 higher than comparable white rooms. Charcoal gray and sage green rounded out the top bedroom choices. *Mary K. Jacob*

VANDALS UNCOOL TO POOL

Trump claims crime

By ANNA YOUNG,
STEVEN NELSON
and SAM CHAMBERLAIN

President Trump claimed Monday that vandals armed with a "box cutter" and fertilizer wrecked his renovation of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, which is now being drained for additional repairs ahead of the Fourth of July.

"We have a, I think, 290-300 foot slit right through it — probably a box cutter or a knife of some kind," Trump said in the Oval Office — rebuffing reporters who incredulously asked how such vandalism of the pool's new liner could be accomplished.

"We didn't have a lot of [police officers] then. Who would think that somebody would go into a pool and take a knife and start cutting it? . . . Let's put it this way, when you have . . . a 350-foot slit from one end to the other, you think that's proof?"

Trump's $14.8 million renovation project at the iconic site grabbed headlines in recent days when his "American flag blue" redesign turned a nasty green due to algae.

Trump suggested the algae (above) was the work of vandals — after he repeatedly attacked prior presidents for tolerating the sun-loving aquatic organism.

JIM LO SCALZO/EPA/Shutterstock

Dead duck found

"They put, somebody said, fertilizer in the water. If you put fertilizer in the water, you get algae, but somebody said they might have put fertilizer. They did something to create the algae," he said.

A dead duckling was also found floating in the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool on Sunday. Stark images on social media showed the lifeless animal floating in murky green water a week after federal government employees dumped gallons of hydrogen peroxide into the pool to combat growing algae blooms.

While it's unclear what caused the duck's death, a White House source told The Post the peroxide levels were tested and deemed "safe" — with levels comparable to those seen in natural swimming pools.

A Department of Interior spokesperson insisted the chemical compound would have no "harmful side effects" to marine life or the environment.

Trump warned Monday that anyone caught defacing the water basin or the National Mall would face years in prison.

The grass on the National Mall was also defaced with giant etchings of the numbers "86 47."

The numerical phrase came into prominence after former FBI Director James Comey posted a picture of the numbers written in seashells on Instagram in May 2025.

"Of the MANY Statues and Fountains that we rebuilt, renovated, cleaned, and fixed, the only one that was Vandalized was the Reflecting Pool, which is being taken care of, ASAP!" Trump wrote on Truth Social.

"Please remember that there is a 10 year prison sentence for the destruction, or even the attempted destruction, of such things — Which will be fully enforced!"

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Wegovy 2 mg/ 3ml	4 doses	$150.00
Jardiance 25mg	240	$180.00
Mounjaro 2 mg/ 3ml	4 doses	$300.00
Xarelto 20 mg	224	$168.00
Farxiga 10 mg	240	$285.00
Januvia 100 mg	240	$200.00
Entresto 97mg + 103mg	180	$440.00
Viagra 100mg	100	$100.00
Rybelsus 14mg	30	$305.00
Kerendia 20mg	56	$190.00
Tradjenta 5mg	240	$240.00
Trelegy Ellipta	4 Inhalers	$408.00

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‘Keep your humanity’

American Dreamers

Through July 4, The Post, in conjunction with the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream, is featuring US citizens explaining what the American dream means to them in 2026 — including Angela Yee, host of the syndicated radio show “Way Up.” Born to a Chinese father and a Caribbean mother, Yee was a host on “The Breakfast Club” before leaving to host her own national program in 2023.

MY definition of the American dream has definitely evolved. But right now, personally for me, it’s to be self-reliant — to know I’m not dependent on anybody else. I’m a risk taker — I’m a calculated risk taker . . . I have a coffee shop, a coffee brand, I have a juice bar in Brooklyn, I have a hair store in Detroit. I do different things! And everything does not always work out. I’ve launched businesses that I’ve had to just give up. I look at it as an education . . .

Yee: Morals important

Getty Images

‘RISK TAKER’: Radio host Angela Yee also sees working hard and improving through education as keys.

Treat people well

Networking has always been critical for me . . . And I know that I haven’t burned bridges, that I have good relationships and a good reputation. So I’ve always felt confident that I would land on my feet somehow.

I’ve seen people go from literally working in the mailroom to becoming an executive, and they remember me from when they worked in the mailroom — how I definitely treated them like everybody else. I’ve seen people really be negative and talk down [to] people based on their position. And I treat people like human beings.

Just be sure that you keep your humanity. Sometimes it can be really tough, everyone is not going to do great things to you. Everyone’s not a good person. But don’t let that change who you are. Always make sure you have your morals, and work hard — because there’s no shortcuts . . .

Always keep on educating yourself, too. If there’s courses you need to take, certifications you need to get, if there’s events that you need to go to, if there’s panels you should attend, make sure you do those things. Because nothing is better for you than educating [yourself]. Things are always evolving. We see what’s happening right now with AI. We see what happens with tech. You have to be involved in all of that and know what’s going on [to have a long career].

The American Dream Video Project showcases real stories that illuminate pathways to opportunity. Featured at the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream (MCAAD), this series is part of the Center’s celebration of America’s 250th anniversary. For more information, visit mcaad.org.

Editing ban after call for more balance

'Woke'pedia blocks its co-founder

WIKI LOCKS: Wikipedia co-founder Larry Sanger recently launched WikiProject Intellectual Diversity to help reinforce the online encyclopedia's "original, firm commitment to intellectual diversity." The left-leaning site responded by blocking Sanger from editing pages. "I am flabbergasted," he told The Post.

Ulli Winkler/ullstein bild via Getty Images

By ASHLEY RINDSBERG

Left-leaning website Wikipedia took the drastic action of blocking one of its founders from editing pages on Monday — after he had campaigned to make it more balanced and fair.

Last month, Larry Sanger launched WikiProject Intellectual Diversity, a group designed to help reinforce the online encyclopedia's "original, firm commitment to intellectual diversity," by emphasizing neutrality and transparency.

However, Sanger — who coined the name "Wikipedia," drafted the site's foundational set of rules and guidelines and launched the site alongside Jimmy Wales in 2001 — was indefinitely blocked from editing, the most drastic action the site can take against an editor.

"I am flabbergasted," Sanger told The Post, saying the decision was made by a group of the site's volunteer editors. He described the modern Wikipedia community as being like a "mob or a blob," noting users do not feel obligated to a specific vision of the rules but rather to each other.

"They are constantly trying to gauge what other people think, and this is the way ultimately these people are able to influence each other," Sanger said. "Even a lot of the hard and fast policies are regarded as just guidelines if everybody is on board."

'No due process'

Sanger became unpopular among the site's most prolific editors for making public calls for those whose viewpoints have typically been underrepresented — Hindus prominently, but also, most pointedly, American conservatives — to be more involved. The exact reason for his blocking was not given.

Wikipedia makes a lot of noise about how its content is created by volunteer users, citing a figure of 267,000 people contributing or editing over the last 30 days on its website.

However, Sanger has long argued the real power rests with a small, largely anonymous class of Wikipedia administrators — who he has identified as being just 62 accounts, which he calls the "Power 62," of which 85% hide behind their screen names and have never revealed their true identities.

For Sanger, the swiftness of the block highlights a glaring lack of procedural fairness. "There is no due process," he argued. "People are being blocked — in other words, disciplined — and yet there is no respect for certain expectations that any other serious disciplinary procedure would be held to."

He likened the platform's arbitration to being judged by a "faceless mob," with the absence of basic structural safeguards like a distinct prosecutor, jury or opportunity to mount a formal defense.

After making the fact he had been blocked public on X this Monday, Sanger's account was reinstated.

Some editors had interjected with questions about the appropriateness of the block decision against Sanger, arguing it was hastily implemented.

The campaign to oust him was instigated by one of the most combative editors on the platform, who goes by the handle TarnishedPath.

Editor's controversies

The same editor was a driving force behind one of the most controversial maneuvers in Wikipedia's recent history: a 12-month "moratorium" that froze the lead of the site's "Zionism" article, locking in a sentence that critics have documented as effectively equating the movement for Jewish self-determination with ethnic cleansing.

TarnishedPath has been extremely active in gender issues on Wikipedia, pushing strongly to have J.K. Rowling labeled "anti-trans" or "transexclusionary radical feminist, or TERF . The editor eventually placed a banner on Rowling's entry alleging it expressed a non-neutral point of view.

Just weeks ago, Wikipedia's own administrators banned TarnishedPath from editing in the entire Israel-Palestine subject area on account of the editor's problematic behavior.

This didn't stop the anonymous editor from playing a key role in the ban of Sanger — indicating the kind of palace intrigue that Sanger has critiqued as being detrimental to the open exchange of ideas on Wikipedia.

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1 dead in 'DUI' jet-ski crash

A jet-ski operator was arrested for allegedly drunkenly smashing into a pal's jet ski near Randalls Island over the weekend — killing a 26-year-old female passenger who was thrown off and found floating facedown in the water.

Yeisson Reyes-Rodriguez, 27, was arrested Sunday and hit with second-degree manslaughter and second-degree vehicular manslaughter charges for the fatal crash that unfolded in the Harlem River around 10 p.m. on Saturday, according to a criminal complaint.

Reyes-Rodriguez, of Passaic, NJ, and four others, including the victim, were drinking and playing music on Randalls Island until it turned dark outside, the complaint said.

Reyes-Rodriguez had a blood alcohol level of 0.141% when cops gave him a breath test around 11:40 p.m., according to the complaint. *Amanda Woods and Joe Marino*

No jail for leaving beach tot

A Texas healthcare executive and her husband avoided jail time after striking a deal with Florida prosecutors in a child neglect case stemming from allegations that they left their 6-month-old baby unattended on a beach while they went for a walk.

Sara Sommers Wilks, 37, a regional president at US Heart and Vascular in Houston, and her husband, Brian David Wilks, 40, entered deferred prosecution agreements that will allow them to avoid criminal prosecution if they comply with a series of conditions over the next year.

Under the agreements signed last month the couple must each pay $1,000 in fines and court costs, complete 25 hours of community service, attend a parenting class, stay out of legal trouble and remain barred from Walton County.

They're also required to waive their right to a speedy trial. *Ariel Zilber*

NY bust for sick kid porn

The vice president of an upstate New York school board was arrested for having several videos on his phone of infants being sexually abused, according to authorities.

Travis Barr Longo, of Cazenovia, was cuffed on child-pornography charges after state troopers seized his cellphone Thursday and discovered "numerous" videos and photos depicting sexual abuse, according to the US Attorney's Office of the Northern District of New York.

The 46-year-old Longo, who serves as the vice president of the Cazenovia Central School District's Board of Education, received the vile content from other users on an internet-based messaging app, prosecutors said.

The sicko appeared in federal court on Saturday and was ordered held behind bars pending further court proceedings.

Zoe Hussain

APPEAL TOSSED

Supremes uphold Patz murder conviction

By PETER SENZAMICI

The Supreme Court officially reinstated the murder conviction Monday of former bodega clerk Pedro Hernandez in the 1979 disappearance and killing of 6-year-old Etan Patz.

In an unsigned *per curiam* opinion, the nation's highest court slapped down a federal appeals court ruling that threw out Hernandez's 2017 conviction over a technicality involving jury instructions.

"The Second Circuit exceeded its authority in holding that Hernandez is entitled to relief," read the opinion, which noted that liberal justices Ketanji Brown Jackson, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor disagreed with the ruling.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, preparing for Hernandez's third trial nearly a decade after his conviction, heralded the news Monday.

"Today the Supreme Court agreed with the findings of multiple lower courts and upheld the trial conviction of Pedro Hernandez for the horrific murder of Etan Patz, which changed a generation of New Yorkers," Bragg said.

Hernandez's conviction followed his second trial for the murder after the first trial ended in a hung jury.

Hernandez, who was 18 at the time of Patz's disappearance, was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison.

Patz vanished from a Soho street on May 25, 1979, and the case went cold until cops got a tip in 2012 that Hernandez had confessed to the killing in a prayer group.

The former clerk later made several confessions to authorities — including a chilling videotaped admission to fatally strangling the 6-year-old after luring him into the bodega basement with a promise of a soda.

However, the first confession was made before he was under arrest and before he was read his Miranda Rights, spurring jurors during the 2017 deliberations to ask whether his remaining confessions should be disregarded as a result.

Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Maxwell Wiley responded to the jury with a simple "no," the Supreme Court ruling noted.

Last summer, a Second Circuit Appeals panel reversed the state conviction over Wiley's answer to the jury, finding he should've told the jurors to make up their own minds about Hernandez's confessions.

STILL GUILTY: Etan Patz (left), 6, was killed in 1979 by bodega clerk Pedro Hernandez (right) in Manhattan.

Jumped to death at MSG

Shocking video shows Connecticut dad Paul Kueker jumped to his death at a weekend concert at Madison Square Garden — with witnesses telling cops he appeared "intoxicated," sources said Monday.

The 51-year-old father of two, who was celebrating his 25th wedding anniversary at Saturday's Goose concert, was captured in the footage reviewed by The Post taking a head-first dive from a balcony about 150 feet up — landing on fellow concertgoers below.

He "appeared intoxicated" and "under the influence" before he took the horrifying leap over the 4-foot glass barrier from the seating section in the 300s shortly before 10 p.m., law-enforcement sources said, quoting witnesses.

Sources said Kueker's wife was seated three sections away, in their assigned seats.

Joe Marino, Jorge Fitz-Gibbon and Amanda Woods

Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope

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♋ CANCER
(June 22-July 23)

The choices you make over the next few days will have the kind of knock-on effects that make the rest of the year a joy. Make use of Jupiter in your sign to enjoy life to the full, because a week from now it won't be such an asset.

♌ LEO
(July 24-Aug. 23)

It does not matter how many times in the past you failed at something, you will get another go at it over the next few days. And when you do finally get it right, you will be so good at it that others come to you for advice.

♍ VIRGO
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

There are few things more important in life than telling the truth and you need to impress that fact on someone who seems to think it's OK to lie. Show them that untruths have a way of coming back at those who utter them.

♎ LIBRA
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

You may not be worried about what's going on in your neighborhood but it seems others are not so laid-back about recent events. Do what you can to soothe their fears and show them that even negative events can have positive outcomes.

♏ SCORPIO
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

The way you choose to react to events over the next few days will to a large extent determine whether you see the outcomes as "good" or "bad." If those outcomes work for you on a personal level then nothing else matters.

♐ SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

How many of your most cherished dreams have actually come true? Even if the answer to that is "none," there is reason to believe that your luck is about to change in a very big way, so keep working and keep believing.

♑ CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

This is by far the best time of the year to revitalize your relationships. With both the Sun and Jupiter moving through the partnership area of your chart, if you reach out to other people they will respond with passion and love.

♒ AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

If there are things you want to say on the work front, then say them immediately. A week from now, Mercury will begin its latest retrograde phase, and the words won't come so easy to you, so talk fast and talk true.

♓ PISCES
(Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

To those who don't know you well it may seem as if you lack ambition but that simply isn't true. Make it your business to show the doubters you have what it takes to be both creative and dynamic. Amaze the world with your genius.

♈ ARIES
(March 21-April 20)

There will be times today when the situation at home or at work gets a bit tense but it's nothing you cannot handle. In fact, you will quite enjoy being the one who gets called on to sort things out. It makes you feel useful.

♉ TAURUS
(April 21-May 21)

There may be a rational explanation for everything that happens in life but at some point today you will have to admit that you don't have the foggiest idea what is going on. The good news is no one else does either, so why worry?

♊ GEMINI
(May 22-June 21)

With Uranus in your sign, you will tackle even the most mundane of tasks as if it is the most important thing ever. Your ability to focus on a goal and not let anything distract you will bring big gains over the next 24 hours.

BIRTHDAY TUESDAY

If you delay taking action because you fear what the outcome might be, you will regret it for years to come. What is it that excites you the most? Make that the foundation of your existence over the coming year. You cannot afford to be timid.

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‘Hit-run’ bust in B’klyn

Feb. ‘mow’ deadly

By JOE MARINO,
XAVIER SERRANO
and AMANDA WOODS

A hit-and-run SUV driver who fatally mowed down a gospel drummer and “loving father” of a 4-year-old boy in East Williamsburg in February finally surrendered to police Monday, cops said.

Gregory Ventura, 35, turned himself in with a lawyer at a Downtown Brooklyn police precinct station house around 8:40 a.m. and was charged with criminally negligent homicide for striking Joshua Germain, 31, the early morning of Feb. 15, authorities and sources said.

Germain was crossing Vandervoort Avenue at the Maspeth Avenue intersection around 12:15 a.m. when Ventura, who was behind the wheel of a Nissan Murano, struck him and drove off, police said.

The gravely injured Germain was rushed to the Elmhurst Hospital Center, where he succumbed to his injuries Feb. 20 — his father’s birthday.

Just a week earlier, Germain had attended an event at his son’s school, his dad, Jean Germain, told The Post on Monday.

“He made sure that he was at every game, every school event,” the elder Germain said. “The last event he went to with his son was like a little party they had at the school. He was there with his son on a Friday before he passed away.

“A week before [his death], he was at his son’s school, and tomorrow that’s his son’s graduation,” he added. “He loved his son. He was a lovely son, a lovely father.”

In his own school days, Germain was a standout drummer, winning an award at McDonald’s Gospelfest for his percussion performance as a high- schooler, his dad said.

Ventura, who has no previous arrests, was also charged with leaving the scene of an accident causing death, reckless driving and moving unsafely from a lane, police said.

He was arraigned on an indictment in Brooklyn Supreme Court on Monday and granted supervised release by Justice Danny Chun — as requested by prosecutors — because he surrendered on his own accord.

He will reappear in court Aug. 18, the Brooklyn DA’s office said.

Talarico praise of trans

Texas Democratic Senate hopeful James Talarico once lavished praise on a self-described “TransQueer, Latinx” activist theologian as a major source of inspiration for his left-wing philosophy.

“When you started following me on Twitter, I couldn’t contain my inner fan boy, because I read your book last year and it continues to inspire me and y’all’s work continues to inspire me,” the state lawmaker told Roberto Henderson-Espinoza during a March 2021 podcast appearance. The book Talarico referred to was Henderson-Espinoza’s “Activist Theology,” published in 2019, which lays out a brand of progressive religious values aimed at fighting “interlocking supremacies.”

Ryan King

RICH DUO CALLS FOR COMMIES

By CHADWICK MOORE

Nothing says “eat the rich” like paying for the knives and forks.

A hedge-fund billionaire and his art groupie wife are pumping millions into socialist think tanks positioned to help Mayor Mamdani achieve his Democratic Socialists of America-backed “worker’s paradise.”

The pair are on a mission to punish landlords and railroad more New Yorkers into government housing, The Post has learned.

From their $20 million Upper East Side townhouse — and their 10-bedroom, nine-bathroom, 10,000-square-foot Hamptons McMansion — Bobby and Carola Jain write checks funding Mamdani-linked intelligentsia paid to create models of how far-left concepts like universal basic income (UBI) and a decommodification of the housing market would work.

It’s the kind of anti-capitalist thinking that has some economists throwing up their hands.

“It must be one of those cults where you have to show you’re a member by mouthing absurd emperor’s [new] clothes nonsense,” John Cochrane, an economist at Stanford University, told The Post.

“[16th century Grand Duke of Tuscany] Cosimo I de’ Medici supported art because he worried about getting into heaven as a rich man. I wish our guilty billionaires would support great classical art instead of stupid social causes,” he added.

Whether motivated by guilt, social climbing or shrewd business acumen, the Jains join a growing list of ultra-wealthy benefactors — also including George Soros and Neville Singham — who made their billions through the capitalist system selling software or shorting markets but now espouse the joys of socialism and sharing the wealth from their ivory towers.

Their patronage means they have so far avoided any surprise house calls from Mamdani, who is on a blitz against the rich and, in April, filmed a viral video outside the Billionaire’s Row home of investor Ken Griffin intended to shame wealthy folks.

‘Creepy’ visit

The stunt sparked a feud between the two, with the hedge-fund boss calling the mayor’s visit “creepy” and “weird.”

Jain, a Queens native, built a high-power finance career over 20 years at Credit Suisse in senior roles, later becoming co-chief investment officer at Millennium Management, one of the world’s largest hedge funds.

He left to launch his own hedge fund, Jain Global, which raised a massive $5.3 billion at launch in 2024, but after making only modest gains in 2025, he returned all money to investors, and the company now manages money exclusively for Millennium.

Jain’s socialist socialite wife Carola has a background in marketing but now mainly works in deciding where to allocate the family’s capital.

According to tax filings, the Jains have pumped over $30 million into their Jain Family Institute. The nonprofit builds out models for large-scale cash transfers to the downtrodden and creates road maps to UBI, advocating for a redistribution-focused economy, while publishing supportive analysis of Mamdani-esque policies like free buses and rent freezes.

“My rich conservative hedge-fund friends don’t get kudos at the Met Gala,” said Cochrane. “As for the actual [JFI] policies, they are well-tried and well-proven disasters.”

Neither the Jains nor JFI responded to The Post’s requests for comment.

Top Mamdani fundraiser Robert “Jack” Gross is editor-in-chief of JFI’s magazine, Phenomenal World, which endorses a “capitalism for developers, communism for landlords” approach to New York’s housing troubles.

JFI outlets push decommodification rhetoric around housing that is critical of private capital and advocates a shift away from private landlords to public or nonprofit models.

“Only public ownership offers an escape from the mounting pressure. If New York moves towards a model of social housing, it will be because public ownership is consistent with stable rents in a way that ownership by private investors fundamentally is not,” an excerpt from one Phenomenal World article reads.

In an interview with John Roemer headlined “Exploitation, Cooperation, and Distributive Justice,” the Marxist economist told JFI’s magazine America’s most radical lefty leaders are still too conservative.

“Socialism is back on the agenda in the United States, which is very exciting. Nevertheless,

Big donors for Zo's DSA live in Hamptons manse

BOUNTIFUL: Billionaire couple Bobby and Carola Jain — whose holdings include a 10-bedroom, nine-bathroom, 10,000-square-foot Hamptons McMansion — spend millions supporting Mayor Mamdani's radical concepts.

Patrick McMullan via Getty Images

what people like Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez are calling socialism is in fact just a series of economic reforms that don't alter property relations," he said.

Gross is part of a three-person team that runs the NYC Policy Forum blog — which is also backed by JFI.

That blog launched in December 2025 after Mamdani won the election to become mayor and is positioned as a way to help implement his socialist agenda. Headlines read, "Making Mamdani's Insurance Plan Work," "Why New York City Needs Public-Powered Pharmacies," "Three Things to Avoid When Building Public Grocery Stores" and "Tax the Rich."

Gross, who has deep ties to the DSA, has publicly praised father of communism Karl Marx, celebrated "Karl Marx Day" and shared passages from the pinko philosopher's Communist Manifesto. He also raised over $20,000 for Mamdani's campaign.

Social-media woes

In June 2020, Gross wrote on social media that it was "beautiful" when New Yorkers yelled "NYPD suck my d--k" — a common refrain heard during the George Floyd riots that summer.

"I must admit I do believe America is a wicked nation that must be punished for its sins," he wrote a few months later.

Students at Cornell University — where Bobby Jain sits on the board of trustees and serves as vice chair of the investment committee — aren't buying it.

Earlier this year, the campus group Students for Justice in Palestine shared a video on social media expressing outrage that a man holding the school's purse strings was invested in companies like Boeing and Caterpillar through his Jain Global.

One keffiyeh-clad undergrad claimed those companies "make bombers and bulldozers that murder and displace Palestinians."

"We refuse to let the board of trustees make us complicit in the genocide, oppression and dispossession of people all around the world," said another student in the video, calling out Jain and two other board members.

Meanwhile, when Carola isn't seated front row at Fashion Week in New York or rubbing shoulders with pop star Lady Gaga, A-list actor Hugh Jackman and performance artist Marina Abramovic during Hamptons charity galas, she sits on the advisory board for Peggy Guggenheim's art collection in Venice.

She is also a member of the board at Harvard's Graduate School of Design and is "building a new cultural arts and technology agency to curate, produce and promote NFT art and Web3 cultural experiences," according to her website.

The art buff got conned by 2017's Fyre Festival scandal, the ultra-luxury music festival weekend in the Bahamas pitched to influencers and young professionals that turned out to be a con and abject disaster.

Stranded attendees arrived to find no proper food, housing or entertainment. The guy running it, Billy McFarland, had oversold and under-delivered so badly he later went to prison for wire fraud.

Carola had bought into the scheme early and became a huge investor, helping arrange millions in funding for the project before herself being swindled.

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Obituary

MICHAEL MANJON, 63, hospitality pro and DJ who turned bars into communities

Michael Mitchell Manjon, a bartender, food and beverage director, and DJ who poured his philosophy of hospitality into thousands of New York nights and turned hotel lounges and food halls into communities, died Tuesday, June 16, in North Bergen, New Jersey. He was 63.

Mike lived in West New York, New Jersey, with his fiancée and the love of his life, Renee Rivera, and their dog, Pepper. They loved traveling, walks in the park, and watching Knicks games.

He grew up in Hartsdale, New York, and began a career in hospitality. Starting as a waiter, he rose to become captain at the restaurant atop the Marriott Marquis hotel in Times Square. A certified mixologist, sommelier, and cicerone, he built followings at the Beacon Bar, Time Out Market in Brooklyn, Hard Rock Hotel, and Park Lane New York. He mixed the perfect Paloma on “Fox & Friends Weekend” and lived by one creed: building community.

Music was his other love. Performing as DJ Mike Manjon and DJ Trip M, he wrote original songs late in life, including a Knicks anthem. His final track, “Higher Than the Skyline,” released the day he died, was featured in a DJ marathon for the Highgate Charitable Foundation.

Predeceased by his mother, Maria Dioso Manjon, Mike is survived by his brother, B.J. Manjon; his father, Manuel Manjon, and stepmother, Rebecca Manjon; and his stepsister, Aimee Caton.

A memorial will be held Saturday, June 27, from 2 to 6 p.m., at Barquin Funeral Home in Guttenberg, New Jersey.

Dad-son gun-run arrests

A father and son peddled illegal guns ranging from a lilac-colored revolver to fully automatic Uzi through an illicit "Iron Pipeline" from Georgia to the city, authorities said Monday.

The high-powered weaponry, which also included three "switches" that can turn a semiautomatic handgun into a "machine pistol," was seized, according to NYPD officials.

"Multiple recovered guns were equipped with devices designed to inflict increased harm," said Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg.

Manhattan prosecutors announced that Daniel Vern Joly, 34, and Daniel Joly, 53, were indicted on charges of selling 45 guns to undercover detectives. Bragg said the sales amounted to $46,000 and went down in Chinatown and Brooklyn through what he called an "Iron Pipeline" going from the Peach State to the Big Apple.

Police nabbed 30 more illegal weapons during the bust Wednesday.

Two other men, Johnny Philogene and Deashawn Ross, were also arrested in Georgia and indicted, according to prosecutors. They are awaiting extradition. *Greg Carlton*

Greenland 'seizefood'

A Trump-appointed official who has spent years promoting closer American ties with Greenland says doing so could have an unexpected payoff: the return of all-you-can-eat shrimp at Red Lobster.

Thomas Dans, the chairman of the US Arctic Research Commission and a Texas financier, made the unusual suggestion in a New Yorker magazine profile that portrayed him as one of the driving forces behind President Trump's push to expand US influence in Greenland.

"My view is that the United States could take all the seafood Greenland could produce," Dans told the mag. *Ariel Zilberg*

KIRSTEN FLEMING

Wealthy made 'Poch' possible

'Evil' rich paid for supercoach

HIGHER LEVEL: The US soccer team can afford coach Mauricio Pochettino (left) because of donors like Mayor Mamdani boogeyman Ken Griffin (below).

FIFA/Getty Images

EVERYBODY loves Poch!

America can't get enough of manager Mauricio Pochettino, who has become the first in 96 years to lead our national soccer team to two consecutive World Cup wins.

Under the 54-year-old Argentinian, the once-beleaguered US Men's team is riding high, even as their star, Christian Pulisic, is sidelined with a calf injury. After decisive wins over Paraguay and Australia, they've advanced to the knockout round, and the supporters are effusive in their appreciation.

After the US's 2-0 victory over Australia on Friday, the crowd at Seattle's Lumen Field erupted into thunderous chants of "Pochettino! Pochettino!" On X, fans fawned over his game day fit and resemblance to Russell Crowe. Some have even argued that he should be granted American citizenship.

If the team continues to play at this level, Pochettino, who coached top European clubs Tottenham, Chelsea and Paris Saint-Germain, seems poised to change the US's fortunes in soccer.

Thank a billionaire

And we can thank multibillionaire Citadel founder Ken Griffin for the consequential hire.

You know, that self-made rich dude singled out by Mayor Mamdani in a creepy video announcing a controversial *pied-à-tierre* tax. Yeah, that guy. If he's not giving oodles of money to hospitals like Sloan Kettering or museums like MOMA, Griffin is helping US Soccer splash out for a world-class manager.

What a bastard!

When Pochettino was hired in September 2024, the US Soccer Federation acknowledged that his "appointment [was] supported in significant part by a philanthropic leadership gift from Kenneth C. Griffin, Founder and CEO of Citadel and Founder of Griffin Catalyst." They added that "additional support has been provided by Scott Goodwin, Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Diameter, and several commercial partners."

A recent piece in The Athletic dove further into the coaching search, revealing more about the hedge funders' role in making Poch the highest-paid employee in US soccer history.

While his salary hasn't been disclosed, it's reported that the signing bonus was $2.5 million. In comparison, predecessor Gregg Berhalter made $1.7 million a year.

When the federation went looking for its new coach, The Athletic reported, they tossed around some top names and Goodwin was on board. Even when informed how costly they would be, Goodwin said, "I'll pay."

'Deep love' of sport

As for Griffin, his rep told the outlet, "Ken did this out of a deep love for soccer and a commitment to growing the game in the United States. He believes in inspiring more children to play, fostering the joy of competition, and advancing the values that make sports meaningful."

On top of all that, Home Depot founder and billionaire Arthur Blank pitched in $50 million for a new $250 million training facility.

Look, it would be nice if the world was like a "Rocky" movie, where champions are forged in no-frills gyms. But in 2026, winning means big-money investments to compete and thrive.

And hooray for billionaires willing to generously dig into their deep pockets.

Ironically, many American soccer fans lean left and like to think of their sport as a niche, elitist pursuit. Not to generalize, but I'd say a hefty part of that base believes billionaires are evil.

It's also true that the left's newest sport is vilifying the rich for success and spreading lies that they don't pay taxes. Bernie Sanders is crisscrossing the country in private jets on a seemingly unending tour to "Fight the Oligarchy."

Mamdani has said, point blank, that billionaires shouldn't exist. He's also made his love of soccer — so much of which is funded by the mega-wealthy — central to his political identity.

It's all a facade. After all, the ultra-progressive socialist left has their own stable of billionaires (George Soros, etc.) hellbent on destabilizing our country.

In a generation, the United States has rewired the way we develop soccer talent to be in step with the rest of the world. Perhaps the missing piece was a guy like Pochettino, capable of taking all the available parts and creating a symphony.

'Why not us?'

Back in November, Goodwin told Pochettino to watch the movie "Miracle," about the 1980 US men's Olympic hockey team that defeated the Russians. The movie brought him to tears.

Afterward, according to The Athletic, the Argentinian asked his squad, "Why not us?"

Pochettino has brought a belief to the US team, and its fans, that they can win.

Sure, he still has many more rungs to climb with this promising squad. But his progress so far is a sharp rejoinder to the "billionaires are bad" sentiment.

These monied folks continue to quietly bolster our culture in significant ways. We should be thanking them, not chasing them out of town with pitchforks.

A FAR-AWAY CAMP

Morocco an alternative to costly US sleepaways

By STEPHANIE McNEAL

READY: Marva Babel is taking daughter Aleim Tucker, 12, to camp in Morocco.

Olga Ginzburg

Like many New York City parents, Marva Babel has willingly paid upward of $8,000 to send her tween daughter to an upstate sleepaway camp for the past few summers.

It was a pricey way for the Brooklyn resident's 12-year-old, Aleim Tucker, to escape the city for a few short months, but to Babel, it was money well spent.

A wrench was soon thrown into the family's summer plans when Babel closed her Crown Heights cocktail bar, which she co-owned with her twin sister.

As a result, she and her husband no longer had that type of cash to shell out — but they were still adamant about giving their daughter a rewarding, fun-filled summer — one, as Babel puts it, off her iPad and outdoors in nature.

Babel began her quest for more affordable summer camp alternatives and found one — in Morocco.

"I took a look at the numbers and everything, and it was much, much, much cheaper," a shocked Babel told The Post, noting that the camp came out to about $800 total. "Like, crazy."

Babel's daughter's goal is to be a competitive swimmer, but she found herself striking out when searching for a local option.

'Beyond expensive'

"I was looking at swim camps, and it was just so expensive; like, beyond expensive," she said. "I felt like she's not going to get a substantial amount of practice and support to become a competitive swimmer the way she would like to, because I just can't afford to give that to her."

Then, after learning from a friend who had already enrolled her son in a Moroccan swim camp run by a former Olympian in the capital city of Rabat, Babel was intrigued.

Even with flights and lodging for both of them, Babel spent between $4,600 and $5,000 for the entire trip to Morocco — roughly half of her daughter's previous camp — plus she's getting an international vacation and giving her daughter the experience she couldn't get closer to home.

"I went to Morocco, to Marrakesh, once about three years ago and had a great time," she told The Post.

Babel's solution may seem extreme to some, but certainly not to parents in the tri-state area.

With costs ballooning for both traditional sleepaway camps and day camps, close to $20,000 for a seven-week session, parents in online groups and WhatsApp group chats are scrambling.

The price of camps "has gone up exponentially in the last number of years," Patti Roberts, better known as "The Summer Camp Lady," confirmed to The Post.

Roberts has been advising parents on the best getaways for their children for more than three decades and said she's seen tuition fees "just keep going up and up and up."

On average, she said, parents can expect to pay between $14,000 and $17,000 for popular sleepaway camps in Maine, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire, where children leave the city and spend the summer swimming, learning sports, connecting with nature and making lifelong friendships.

Day camps costly, too

For day camps, which function more like a typical school day and feature instruction in everything from math to dance, prices now run between $10,000 and $12,000.

"It sounds ridiculous, and I shouldn't be saying it, but for the amount of money that you could send two or three children to camp for the summer, you could go rent a house in Tuscany," Roberts pointed out.

And for many families, paying for camp is not optional.

Two-earner households are now the norm nationwide, meaning camp is not just an enriching summer experience but also a childcare necessity.

"Summer camp is incredibly expensive; the cost is rising incredibly quickly, similar to childcare costs, and on average the weekly cost of summer camp is more expensive than the weekly cost of daycare," Paige Connell, a Boston-based advocate, content creator and mother of four, told The Post.

On her TikTok and Instagram accounts, where she has more than 700,000 followers combined, Connell focuses on advocating for working mothers and for policies, including paid leave and universal childcare, and says that summer camp is part of the puzzle that often gets overlooked.

"We look at summer camp as a 'nice to have,' and not a necessity — and it absolutely is," she said.

smcneal@nypost.com

Swindler gets up to 9 yrs.

A greedy Manhattan marketing exec who stole nearly $6 million from employers — splashing some of the dough on a $150,000 engagement ring — landed up to nine years behind bars in a plea deal Monday.

Michael Collins, 62, got slammed with the hard time after he admitted in April to embezzling millions of dollars from companies he used to work for to fund his extravagant high-flying lifestyle.

"I hope this sentencing sends a message to New York executives who exploit Manhattan businesses — you will be held accountable," said Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, whose office brokered the 3- to 9-year prison deal.

Collins, former chief marketing officer for the digital banking platform nCino, spent his looted booty on a slew of high-priced luxuries, including executive club memberships, luxury brands, jewelry, fine dining and extensive travel and lodging, prosecutors said.

The crook, dressed in a white T-shirt underneath a gray zipped hoodie for his Manhattan Supreme Court sentencing, elaborately set up two fake companies to steal money from his jobs between March 2016 and April 2024. *Kyle Schnitzer*

Virus-cruise Yanks home

All 18 US passengers from the hantavirus-hit MV Hondius cruise ship have returned to their home states after completing monitoring, officials said Monday.

Sixteen of those passengers arrived at the National Quarantine Unit of the University of Nebraska Medical Center on May 11 after their trip on the cruise ship, the center said. Two more former passengers arrived at the quarantine unit May 15.

"No cases of hantavirus disease occurred" in the US "as a result of this outbreak," the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. *Reuters*

Deal let disgraced LI cops stay on payroll

Long Island cops who have admitted to misconduct could stay on the job and rake in six-figure salaries, leaving after reaching full pension eligibility, a report said.

Since 2011, at least seven settlement agreements between Suffolk County and accused crooked cops have been reached, costing taxpayers $7 million and letting the cops stay employed long enough to reach their 20 years of service for pension eligibility, according to Newsday.

Mike Martino, a spokesperson for Suffolk County Executive Ed Romaine, said the deals were cut under prior Exec Steve Bellone and former police chief Rodney Harrison, who denied signing off on any such agreements despite his signature being on the paper.

Cops covered by the deals included one who allegedly took a Breathalyzer test for a drunken off-duty colleague and another who allegedly punched a man while holding handcuffs.

Police Benevolent Association President Lou Civello defended the deals saying, an admission of general misconduct "does not mean the allegations are true," but rather that "the officers admit to making some procedural mistake and settle on a penalty." *Brandon Cruz*

$$ & Defense

The Pentagon principles key to US prosperity

PETE HEGSETH

REUTERS

Budget battle: Hegseth (r.) is cutting the fat while spending big on tech.

URGENCY, speed, efficiency, competition and lethality: These are the new guiding principles of our War Department. This moment requires defense hawks and fiscal hawks to pull together, and I'm proud to call myself both.

Our growing national debt is indeed a threat. That's evident to me as a taxpayer and as a Cabinet secretary — so, unlike Pentagons of the past, we're leading the way on fiscal discipline, spending taxpayer dollars wisely.

Yet the single greatest threat to America's national security today is under-investment in military spending. If America loses its military edge, no amount of fiscal austerity can maintain this nation's economic health. That's why President Trump's proposed $1.5 trillion fiscal year 2027 defense budget, a generational investment in military advantage, is my department's No. 1 priority.

Our job, in conjunction with Congress, is to stop at nothing — between the base budget, a supplemental request and a reconciliation package — to ensure we deliver on the commander-in-chief's vision for American defense dominance: a common-sense, America First military. The future of America's economic and fiscal health depends on it.

The American people can be forgiven for taking the military aspect of our economic engine for granted. For decades the Pentagon has quietly underwritten the foundation of American prosperity — from the dominance of the US dollar to the stability of borrowing costs to the protection of global trade.

It's not the Treasury Department alone that keeps the dollar stable, it's also the US Air Force. It's not the Commerce Department alone that maintains free trade, it's also the US Navy.

It's prosperity through strength, and the economic consequences of having the world's strongest military safeguard economic stability, predictability and American advantage are almost endless. When America is unchallenged militarily, economic possibilities abound: We borrow cheaply, transact freely and set the terms of global trade.

Without that military power, all this becomes uncertain — because instability and volatility do vast damage to markets, investments and ultimately American jobs. As other nations, notably China, undertake historic military buildups, we must rebuild a military degraded under anemic Biden defense budgets, while investing in cutting-edge capabilities. Space, subsea, cyber, AI, autonomous systems and long-range strike domains will determine future battlefields — and will determine our economic prospects.

My department has been briefing every member of Congress on the urgent nature of global threats, and about how this once-in-a-lifetime budget not only meets those threats, but surpasses them.

The Pentagon has never passed a comprehensive financial audit, the only major US federal agency to never do so. Worse, the Pentagon has never *cared* to pass an audit. No longer: The War Department is now on track to pass an audit by 2028, years sooner than expected.

We made it a priority, and the process is forcing every corner of the Pentagon to go line by line with exacting detail. Deputy Secretary Steve Feinberg spent the past year going through the budget, gaining a granular understanding of our balance sheet.

This never-before-done, grinding review enabled us to streamline our budget by dramatically reducing non-priority spending, exposing billions in redundancies. It allowed us to shift tens of billions of dollars to our highest-priority missions.

And we've completely flipped our department-wide acquisitions approach from bureaucratic process to business performance. We hired world-class businesspeople to cut deals that put the department, and the taxpayer, first.

In exchange for longer-term orders, defense contractors are investing their own capital in new manufacturing plants and assembly lines — putting hundreds of thousands of Americans to work and saving our department tens of billions. Our warfighters will get the weapons, platforms and technology they need *ahead* of schedule: tomorrow's weapons today, not yesterday's weapons tomorrow.

Our newest programs are under budget, and we've got legacy programs moving years faster. Large defense contractors understand they must adapt to this new business approach, or we'll replace them. New companies now compete on a level platform.

When I was in uniform, I can recall hearing Admiral Mike Mullen, then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, repeatedly say: "America's national debt is the single greatest threat to our national security." Admiral Mullen was right — well, half right.

The national debt is important, but fiscally responsible defense spending is even more so. We can, and must, do both. That starts when Congress' defense and fiscal hawks unite — and pass the president's historic defense budget.

Pete Hegseth is the United States Secretary of War.

FAST TAKES

Libertarian: Don't Buy the 'Fair Share' Myth

Progressives are hopping on the idea to force "'rich' people to pay their 'fair share,'" but "the U.S. already puts a heavier burden on high-income people than do most countries," fumes Reason's J.D. Tuccille. Indeed, wealthy Americans pay a "disproportionate share of taxes" — the top 1% pay a 23.1% average tax rate, vs. the 3.7% for the bottom half of taxpayers; the top half pays 97% of federal individual income taxes. High-income Californians and even Texans "pay a higher proportion of taxes" than their peers in Sweden — "a country many progressives revere." Ironically: "If there's money for avaricious politicians to mine from the public, it's concentrated among the relatively prosperous, but not rich, urban upper-middle class that increasingly votes Democrat and progressive."

Campus watch: Bankruptcy Lessons for Faculty

Auburn University's "board of trustees is taking control of the school back from its faculty," cheers Todd Zywicki at The Wall Street Journal — dissolving the faculty senate, "seizing" academic programs, etc., in response to the state legislature's mandates. Academia today should take "an important lesson" from bankruptcies, which give businesses a chance "to admit mistakes, reform and emerge stronger." "Faculty enjoyed substantial rights of self-governance because they committed to higher standards," including "scholarly integrity," free speech and "merit-based" research — but then the "commitment to those values collapsed." Like companies in bankruptcy, today's "universities have lost their way," becoming "unable or unwilling to self-correct." Learn from Auburn's fate: "Fix what's broken, or someone else might fix it for you."

Education beat: Fix the 'Middle School Slump'

While "some student groups have made promising gains" in the 2025 National Assessment of Educational Progress Long-Term Trend Assessments, the latest release shows US schools "continue to fall short for far too many children," thunders Terry Stoops at The Federalist. Among 9-year-olds, reading and math scores "appear to be headed in the right direction" but scores for 13-year-olds "have not changed since 2023" and are "much lower than results reported in 2012 or 2020." "COVID shutdowns" following "large-scale educational experiments" in the 2010s derailed "a decade of solid academic progress." Now "addressing the 'middle school slump' requires a comprehensive strategy" focused on education basics. "Overhyped fixes are all too common in education reform, but they are no substitute for schools that get the basics right."

'Moderates' patrol: Spanberger Soft on Crime

Abigail Spanberger

Gov. Abigail Spanberger and Virginia Democrats "still aren't serious about fighting crime," fume the Washington Examiner's editors. They've just defunded Operation Ceasefire, which "focused on cities with high crime rates" with "a three-pillar strategy" of "working with at-risk youth," community leaders expanding outreach and serious "enforcement of the law." It had cops and prosecutors "target repeat offenders" with help from tech including "automated license plate readers in select cities." With outlays of just $1.3 million a year, it cut murders 30% and slashed violent crime 66% reduction in its targeted cities. It "was everything moderate Democrats claim to support: tough on crime, fiscally responsible, transparent, and community-oriented." In axing it, Spanberger & Co. showed "who they really are."

Democrat: Avoid Culture-War Extremism

Democrats risk being "put on the defensive over gays and transexuals in a new round of culture war fights," warns Juan Williams at The Hill, if they don't heed the warning of the late Barney Frank about not feeding the perception that the whole party "is committed to . . . very drastic social reconstructions," or, as Rahm Emanuel puts it, "in the last four years, the only room we were comfortable in was the bathroom." Williams fears Dems are still vulnerable to "being portrayed to voters as invested in controversies about sex, race and guns" rather than "focusing on the cost of living, jobs and public safety." Get real: "Fights for equal rights require consistent tending of the garden to build and keep broad coalitions of support."

— Compiled by The Post Editorial Board

NEW YORK POST
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Zoh Goes *Full* Antisemite

Mayor Mamdani last week tore off the mask: He's going full-on antisemite.

At last Thursday's rally for his slate of extremist House candidates — Brad Lander, Darieliza Avila Chevalier and Claire Valdez — Mamdani railed that we're now living in a "time of monsters."

Who are these monsters? Though they "take many forms," it's . . . AIPAC.

Yep: The American Israel Public Affairs Committee is the heart of all evil in America, per Mamdani; the only thing it fears more than democracy "is an end to genocide."

Reality check: AIPAC is an entirely legal political outfit that operates like dozens of other issue-oriented PACS, including much larger ones that support Mamdani and his causes.

Reality check II: Israel's recent war in Gaza featured no "genocide"; the Palestinian population has grown since Hamas started that war, indeed grown every decade that Jerusalem has controlled Gaza and the West Bank.

But facts don't matter when haters are on a roll; neither does nuance. The Mamdani ticket's foes in these races, like Manhattan Rep. Dan Goldman and Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso, aren't simply fellow Democrats on the other side of a few issues. They literally support genocide, the mayor argues, as tools of AIPAC, which moves "millions in dark money to accomplish a single goal: to preserve their power so they can turn us against one another."

The idea that Jews secretly plot to divide and control society isn't new; it was a common theme in Tsarist Russia and 1930s Germany; today it's big in Arab media and progressive campaigns: The Jews (not Messi's three goals) robbed Algeria in that World Cup match; AIPAC (not his own ex-staffers) is why everyone's hearing about Graham Platner's sordid past of . . . a few months ago.

Mamdani's classic antisemitic themes got worse: The Jews put more cash into AIPAC than they'd ever pay in taxes, he says, albeit without using the words "money-grubbing."

Again, PACs and "dark money" of all kinds serve the left as well as the rest of the political spectrum, but the money is only tainted when it comes from the Jews.

Nor was it just one rally: Mamdani and his candidates did an interview last week with radical left influencer Bartley Blakeley, who openly adores Hamas, compares its late leader Yahya Sinwar to Martin Luther King and promotes the wacko beliefs that Israel perpetrated 9/11 and created ISIS.

Mamdani supposedly represents the fresh face of the Democratic Party. Too bad the new blood keeps pushing this ancient hate.

Making Latin America Great Again

Latin Americans have caught MAGA fever big-time, even as the US left pushes to copy their big-government failures.

Trump-endorsed Abelardo de la Espriella just won Colombia's presidency over Iván Cepeda by vowing to crack down on crime and corruption and rescue the economy.

Cepeda pushed for greater power for public-sector unions and more concessions to violent rebels; de la Espriella (whose fans wore "Make Colombia Great Again" hats) aims to roll back government spending by 40%, trim the state headcount and slash taxes.

This Latin trend started with Javier Milei's 2023 victory in Argentina, after he vowed to take a chainsaw to Big Government and embrace free-market economics. The region noticed his rapid success, and is responding to President Trump's trademark appeal, particularly his focus on fighting drugs, gangs and terrorists, and the hope of US aid in similar fights in Latin nations.

Since Milei's win, right-leaning or centrist pols have captured the top office in Chile, Peru, Honduras, Bolivia and Costa Rica, plus big wins in Ecuador and El Salvador. Brazil may be next in October, as polls show right-leaning Sen. Flávio Bolsonaro in a dead heat with lefty President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

It's a stunning shift across all across the region; the main exceptions are Mexico, where the ruling party's been rewriting laws to kneecap any opposition, and outright tyrannies such as Nicaragua, Cuba and Venezuela. All while US progressives push for more of the very failed policies our neighbors are abandoning.

No wonder Democrats are talking about drastic steps to lock in their own power — packing the Supreme Court, stacking the Senate with new states DC and Puerto Rico — when they next control Washington: They don't dare give voters another chance to kick them out after they wreak disaster.

Britain Needs To Learn From *Italy?*

Ouch: All of a sudden, *Italy* is showing the United Kingdom what a stable government looks like.

Britain's about to get its seventh prime minister in 10 years, *most* of them ousted not by the voters but by their own parties. Before this run, it took *40 years* to rack up seven PMs.

Meanwhile, Italy's Georgia Meloni will hit her four-year mark in October, the longest-lasting head of a government in the postwar era, after nearly 70 governments in 83 years.

Keir Starmer, after less than two years at No. 10 Downing St., admitted he's done Monday after as his Labour Party revolted at his bumbling. Andy Burnham will now become the first PM in over a century to have no experience in the chief offices of power.

Labour doesn't have to call an election until mid 2029, but Andy may not last if he can't reverse Starmer's disasters — and he's farther left, so may well make things *worse*.

On the other hand, the British right is split between two parties, the Conservatives and Reform, with a third (Restore Britain) biting their ankles. Labour's rivals might ask Meloni for advice on how to build a coalition.

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letters@nypost.com

Barack's Chicago Museum Puts Hypocrisy on Display

THE ISSUE: The unappealing and expensive Obama Presidential Center opens in Chicago.

Barack Obama

- Kirsten Fleming's article was spot on regarding the truly ugly and outrageously expensive "Obamalisk" — the $850 million tribute to King Barack Obama ("Monument to left's hypocrisy," June 19).

It's amazing how the "do as I say, not as I do" attitude is always present with the liberal Democrats.

Why are these presidential monuments necessary at all? Spend the money on the people of Chicago who need it. They don't need a museum with pictures and Michelle's dresses collecting dust. A cost for one of those dresses would pay the rent for a Chicago family.

It will be interesting to keep a running tally of how many visitors this monstrosity gets throughout the next few years.

Donna Skjeveland
Ronkonkoma

- So former President Barack Obama says that there are no kings in America, but has a castle built on the grounds of land that was set aside for Chicagoans and on the backs of small businesses who have yet to be paid. Who's acting like a king now?

John Ketelsen
Ocean, NJ

- The Obama Presidential Center says it's a library but the architecture screams, "Look at me." Google Maps should label it as the "largest ego structure in the world."

Thomas De Julio
Delray Beach, Fla.

- Obama officially opened his library — also known as the Death Star. In attendance were Bill and Hillary Clinton, Joe and Jill Biden, U2, Bruce Springsteen and Barack and Michelle. Looks like all the things in the museum weren't the only ancient useless artifacts.

Walter Goldeski
East Brunswick, NJ

- Now that we've gotten a Native American land acknowledgment for that huge concrete slab Obama built for himself in Chicago, when will we be getting ones for the land that his Martha's Vineyard and Hawaii mansions sit on?

Gary Mottola, Brooklyn

- The Obama Presidential Library is a carbon copy of "The Tombs" city jail in Lower Manhattan. Could it be that Obama's getting acclimated to some new digs in case President Trump lowers the boom on him for the Russia frame job?

Jim Clements
New Hyde Park

New York's 'Gestating' Nonsense

THE ISSUE: New York Democrats' bill to erase the words "mother" and "father" from many statutes.

- I am a proud father of two daughters and grandfather of five grandchildren. I guess I committed the sin of not being politically correct when I sent out good wishes on Father's Day ("Surely, you gestate," June 19).

I resent being referred to as a "non-gestating person" by the woke mob and their political followers. God help us! These people are insane.

Anthony Scro
Whitestone

- As I sat down for my morning coffee and one of the three newspapers I read every day, I came across an article explaining a bill that will replace the words "mother" and "father" with "gestating parent" and "non-gestating parent" — just one example of why the city and state of New York are going to the dogs.

I have nothing against being woke or anything one wants to be — but no matter what Gov. Hochul signs, she will never eliminate "mom and dad." By the way, happy late Father's Day.

Louie Scarcella
Coney Island

- There are only two genders, male and female. You can use any word salad to change the definition of mother and father, but you cannot and will not ever change what God created. Stand up for the beautiful creation of a mother and a father.

Where is your morality, governor? **Gene O'Brien**
Whitestone

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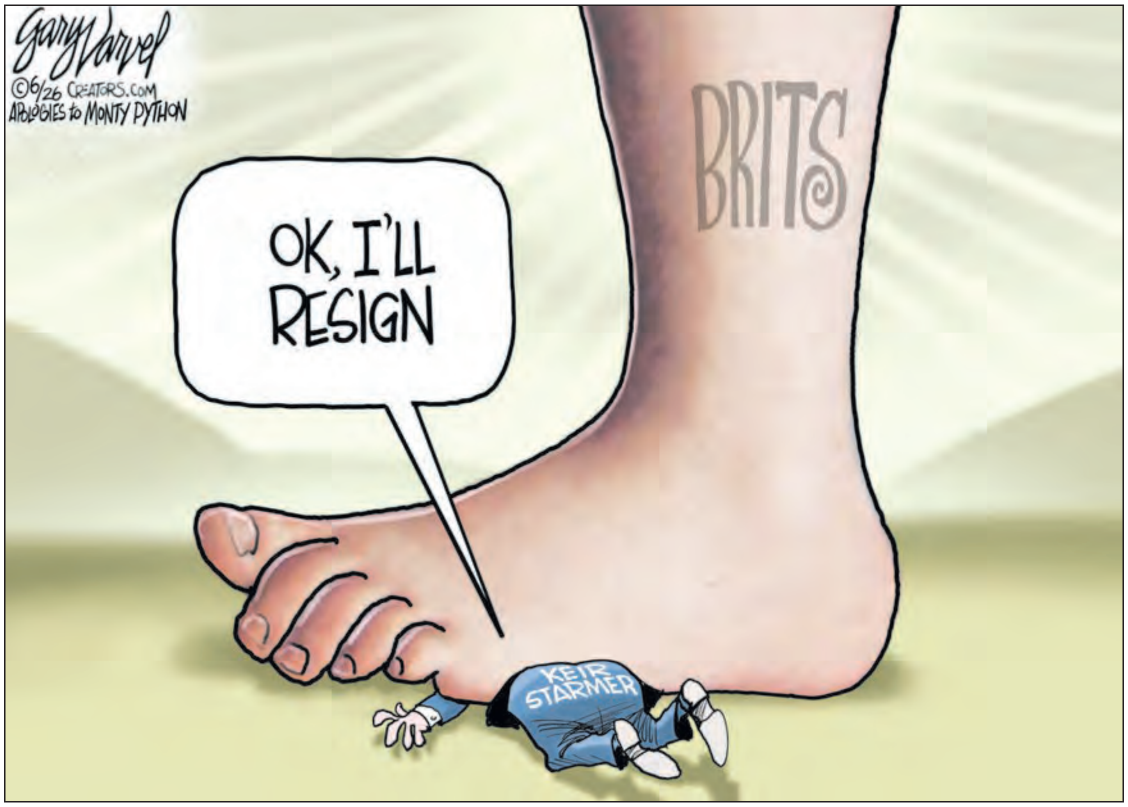

Greenspan the Great

ALAN Greenspan, who died Monday at the age of 100, presided over a two-decade-long period of almost unprecedented American boom and economic dominance that's now inaptly called "The Great Moderation." His long tenure as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board offers invaluable economic lessons that today's Fed would be wise to heed.

President Ronald Reagan nominated Greenspan as Fed chair in 1987, during his second White House term. There Greenspan remained until 2006, reappointed by President Bill Clinton and staying through much of George W. Bush's presidency.

His tenure followed a period of turbulent and often reckless monetary policy at the Fed. In the tumultuous 1970s, the Fed tried to juice a floundering economy with easy money, pushing inflation to as high as 11% on the eve of the Reagan presidency.

Family incomes crashed in real terms as Americans' after-inflation incomes shrank. It was the worst decade for the US economy since the Great Depression, sending the stock market into an extended slump.

Greenspan's immediate predecessor at the Fed, Paul Volker, is rightly credited with breaking the back of double-digit inflation by taking away the "punchbowl" of easy money. That helped launch a 40-year bull market on Wall Street and rapid gains in American GDP.

But it was Greenspan who solidified the longer-term victory over inflation, and permanently restored global confidence in the dollar. During his reign inflation averaged between 2% and 3%.

He operated under the "Volcker rule," using commodity prices as a forward-looking gauge of inflation to keep prices stable. And it worked magnificently. The Reagan expansion that began in late 1982 hit a speed bump with the mini-stock market crash of 1987, but the recovery was swift — and in the 1990s and early 2000s, the economy shot up like an Elon Musk rocket.

So did the stock market: If you put $100 into S&P 500 stocks when Greenspan arrived, that investment was worth more than $900 on his departure 19 years later. So did family incomes: America became a job-creation machine during Greenspan's tenure, adding roughly 2 million new jobs on average every year.

STEPHEN MOORE

But even as growth exploded, Greenspan was ever vigilant against stock-market bubbles. In one of his most famous speeches, he memorably warned investors in 1996 to beware "irrational exuberance," fearing that stock values may have been getting ahead of themselves. Yet the market continued to soar as America came to dominate the internet age, with companies like Apple, Amazon and Google leading the charge — and Greenspan's low interest rates facilitating the boom.

Greenspan — once an avid follower of famous libertarian Ayn Rand — wasn't just an inflation hawk; he used the Fed's bully pulpit to browbeat Congress into cutting deficit spending. It's no accident that the only balanced budgets in the last 50 years happened when he was at the Fed's helm.

That's the lesson of the Greenspan era: Combine stable prices, lower tax rates, and less regulation with restraints on government spending, and you've got the secret sauce for a prosperous America.

The dollar became the unrivaled world reserve currency in the 1990s, and other nations effectively "dollarized" their own currencies to defeat the curse and theft of runaway inflation. One of the nations that wisely dollarized was China, during its rapid ascent after shifting away from a wholly communist economy toward a market-oriented one.

Inflation remained low until in 2022 Fed chief Jerome Powell allowed prices to flare up to above 9% during Joe Biden's presidency.

It's ironic that many economic historians have begun to call the Greenspan era "The Great Moderation" — because all that was really "moderate" during this era was inflation. In fact, it was the "Great American Boom," under principles that President Trump is restoring.

Kevin Warsh, the new Fed chair, appears to be a disciple of Volcker and Greenspan, continually touting the policy of a stable dollar. If he follows their example, more prosperity is right around the corner.

Toked-Up Mommies Put Kids in Danger

MOTHERHOOD is hard; weed helps. That's the toxic message from a new group of online influencers — "gardeners," they like to call themselves — who advocate using cannabis to deal with the stress of parenting small children.

A recent article in The Atlantic by Sarah Levy tallied 76,000 videos on TikTok with the "#gardenmom" label. There's Taylor Mitchem (with 120,000 followers), who had a baby in 2020 and felt responsible for most of the child care because her husband was too nervous to help much.

She was a regular weed user before her baby was born to help with her anxiety and ADHD. So she decided to resume her habit, and began smoking again daily when her kid was 2½. "Life is hard," she told Levy. "If you have something that takes the edge off a little bit, why not?"

NAOMI SCHAEFER RILEY

Why not? Because parenting small children while high on drugs is a recipe for disaster.

Using marijuana during pregnancy has been linked to low birth weights and pre-term birth, as well as to abnormal neurological development and a higher likelihood that the child will develop ADHD. After a baby is born, the risks of weed use only multiply.

First, as anyone who's ever cared for an infant knows, they need a lot of attention. It's not just the feeding and burping and changing; it's also being attuned to small changes — if they spike a fever, for instance — that can require immediate medical attention.

Then there are the unsafe sleep habits. Of the more than 5,000 child-maltreatment fatality cases my colleagues and I have collected in our database at Lives Cut Short, more than 700 involved unsafe sleep conditions and more than two-thirds involved parental substance use.

Most parents can safely co-sleep with their children, because they will naturally wake up when a child is in distress. If impaired by drugs or alcohol, though, that awareness may not kick in.

Many of the "garden moms" decide to smoke pot first thing in the morning, though: "Coffee and coughy," they like to call it. For those who compare cannabis to alcohol, can you imagine the backlash against mothers doing shots of vodka every morning while their kid is eating Cheerios?

The mothers Levy talked to told her that they "were not putting weed first." Rather, they blamed a lack of "meaningful parenting help" for their stress — and claimed to be "prioritizing their family by using cannabis as a tool: to help them stay patient . . to be present without becoming overwhelmed — essentially, to be better moms."

Despite a complete lack of medical evidence that marijuana helps to cure anxiety or depression — and evidence it can make low-level mental-health problems worse, and even turn them into bigger ones — these mothers claim they use cannabis as a form of "self-care." What a load of narcissistic hooey.

Children who are mobile, but don't yet understand certain dangers, are at the most risk when they lack a sober adult supervising them. A baby left in a crib for hours will be fine — responsible parents do it every night.

What you *can't* do is leave toddlers wandering around the house while you indulge. They are the ones who touch hot stoves, run out the door into traffic, drown in bathtubs and swallow small objects.

Sorry if this makes parenting sound like a drag: Sometimes it *is* exhausting. You can use drugs to forget that, but using doesn't make you a better mother.

> ***“Cannabis as “self-care” . . . What a load of narcissistic hooey.”***

The "garden moms" Levy interviewed reassured her that they wait before getting into a vehicle and driving their children anywhere — but it's not clear how much time is necessary for a cannabis high to sufficiently subside. A report from Ohio last year found that almost half of car-crash fatality victims had cannabis in their systems when they died. And the idea that you can use marijuana *every morning* but then wait several hours before having to take your kids anywhere seems, let's just say, unrealistic.

The "garden mom" trend combines two of the worst cultural ideas of the past few decades: That modern motherhood is awful, and that drug use is a harmless individual choice.

Feeling overwhelmed? Maybe your husband or boyfriend needs to step up and pitch in. Feeling lonely? Maybe spend more time with Mommy and Me groups and less time posting TikTok videos.

Children need close supervision for a relatively short amount of their lives — but during that time, they need it desperately. Advertising drug use as good parenting isn't fooling anyone.

The Post Puzzle Page

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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A1	E1	I1	U1	S1	V4	M3		RACK 1
A1	O1	L1	L1	L1	W4	B3	Double Word Score	RACK 2
I1	I1	Y4	R1	M3	C3	M3	3rd Letter Triple	RACK 3
E1	I1	I1	U1	L1	T1	D2		RACK 4

PAR SCORE 150-160
BEST SCORE 215

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

TODAY'S ANSWER

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION

A1	M3	U1	S1	I1	V4	E1	RACK 1 =	62
L1	O1	W4	B3	A1	L1	L1	RACK 2 =	74
M3	I1	M3	I1	C3	R1	Y4	RACK 3 =	72
D2	I1	L1	U1	T1	E1		RACK 4 =	7
							TOTAL	215

PAR SCORE 150-160

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

Bridge

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A K 4
♡ Q 9 8
◇ 9 7 6
♣ A 10 8 6

WEST
♠ 8 5
♡ 6 5 2
◇ Q 10 5 4
♣ K Q J 9

EAST
♠ Q 10 9 2
♡ 7 3
◇ J 3 2
♣ 7 5 4 2

SOUTH
♠ J 7 6 3
♡ A K J 10 4
◇ A K 8
♣ 3

South	West	North	East
1♡	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♡	Pass
5◇	Pass	6♡	All Pass

Opening lead – ♣ K

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Having defeated the Cretan bull as his Seventh Labor, Hercules was charged by King Eurystheus to get the dreaded man-eating mares of King Diomedes of Thrace.

"You may take my mares," said the king, "but first, make six hearts in this deal. West leads the king of clubs."

Hercules saw at most 11 tricks: a club, five trumps, two diamonds and maybe three spades. Dummy play was not his forte, so the great hero prayed for help, and Athena provided inspiration.

Hercules ruffed a club at Trick Two, led a spade to the king, ruffed a club, led a spade to the ace and ruffed the last club with the ace of trumps. He drew trumps with his king and dummy's Q-9, pitching his low diamond, and led dummy's last spade at the 10th trick.

East took the queen and had to lead a diamond or a spade. Hercules won the last three tricks.

"Well done," Diomedes said. "Let's have another deal."

Hercules was having none of that. He slew Diomedes and drove off the mares unchallenged.

Word Force

FROWNINGLY

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 16** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

ANSWERS IN TOMORROW'S POST
Yesterday's word:
GLOWERING

going
goner
gorge
groin
growl
grown
liner
lingo
login
loner
lower
oiler
owing
owner
reign
wring
wrong

Wonderword

How to play: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CRUMBL MAKES DECADENT COOKIES **Solution: 8 letters**

R	E	L	B	B	O	C	I	N	N	A	M	O	N	B
I	E	S	P	R	E	S	S	O	R	E	Y	W	A	S
C	F	D	E	S	S	E	R	T	S	E	W	C	O	S
H	F	T	F	A	Y	R	R	U	L	A	O	F	R	E
W	O	U	O	D	S	E	G	S	F	N	T	M	R	I
O	T	N	N	U	A	A	M	F	A	B	A	E	U	K
L	M	A	S	T	R	A	L	V	A	J	Z	Y	H	O
L	C	E	S	A	H	E	A	T	T	A	T	D	C	O
A	G	P	B	H	B	L	C	E	L	S	O	N	V	C
M	O	I	U	A	N	H	L	G	D	O	E	E	A	L
H	W	N	N	E	Y	T	W	I	X	N	R	R	N	A
S	A	A	T	G	R	W	C	A	R	R	O	T	I	M
R	N	L	B	A	T	T	E	R	K	L	I	M	L	I
A	O	A	T	M	E	A	L	H	N	O	M	E	L	N
M	A	R	G	A	T	S	N	I	C	I	N	G	A	A

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Almond, Animal Cookies, Bacon, Banana, Batch, Batter, Bun, Candy, Carrot, Chewy, Churro, Cinnamon, Cobbler, Dessert, Espresso, Glaze, Hamsley, Icing, Instagram, Jam, Jason, Lemon, Marshmallow, McGowan, Milk, Molten Lava, Oatmeal, Oreo, Peanut, Rich, Sawyer, Sea Salt, Soft, Sugar, Tartlet, Toffee, Treats, Trendy, Twix, Utah, Vanilla, Waffle

Yesterday's Answer: Soccer

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

POST SU DOKU

To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids. Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at

www.SudokuWiki.org

PLAY MORE GAMES!
NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Solutions on Page 37

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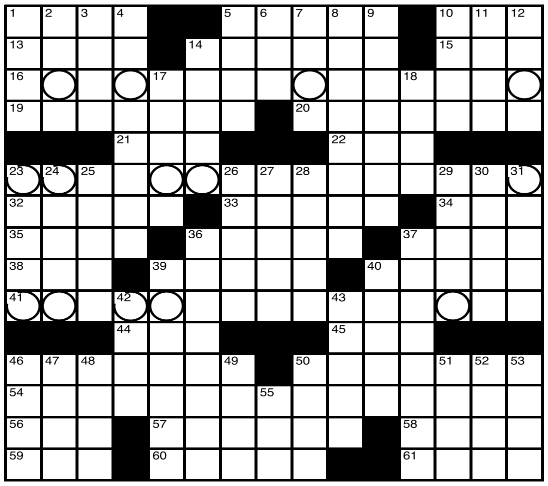
Very Easy #7,318

	7	3	9					5
			1		8			
	4	6	2			9	7	
2		1	4		3	5		
				1				
		9	7		6	8		3
	9	2			7	1	6	
			8		2			
7					1	4	5	

Difficult #7,108

	3		9		4		5	2
				7		6		
5			1					
4	9	6						
	2						6	
						9	7	3
					3			5
		7		2				
3	6		4		1		9	

Quick Crossword



Across
1 Voting faction
5 Botanical transplant
10 Post that's bigger than a gig
13 Like chocolate lava cake
14 "Folklore" music artist Swift
15 "___ seen worse"
16 Disc-tossing team sport
19 "Aw, so sweet!"
20 Like elevator music
21 Chicken ___ king
22 Actor Cariou
23 Contest played on a star-shaped board
32 Ascends
33 South African language with click consonants
34 Tuna roll topper
35 Some hazy brews, for short
36 Piano pieces for four hands
37 "You're not wrong"
38 28-Down amenity, maybe
39 Ballet class rail
40 Plump pet, slangily
41 Pool hall activity
44 ___ de la Cité: Notre-Dame home
45 Coffee container
46 Not much
50 Spine-tingling artwork?
54 Nintendo player's side quest, or what the circled letters of 16-, 23-, and 41-Across create
56 Cenozoic ___
57 Like alpacas
58 A bird flying into the house, say
59 Cold War operative
60 Agreements
61 Bit of headway

Down
1 Like dry champagne
2 Disney girl who teaches Stitch the meaning of ohana
3 Prefix meaning "eight"
4 Sequences of tight turns on race-courses
5 Frontier departure point?
6 Marbled bread
7 Italian sports car, briefly
8 Unshaped
9 NYC nabe south of SoHo
10 Align (with)
11 Roasting appliance
12 Red root vegetable used in some dyes
14 Breezy goodbyes
17 Cocktails made with lime, vodka, and ginger beer
18 Dishwasher's station
23 Like tempura
24 River-dwelling mammal that can't swim
25 Sci-fi writer Asimov
26 Area far from downtown
27 French darling
28 Tourist's base
29 ___ in judgment
30 Tournament division
31 Tries to find
36 NBC news show since 1992
37 "What a relief!"
39 I-495 in Washington, D.C., e.g.
40 About, in dates
42 Toy that may get stuck in a tree
43 Greg Evans comic strip
46 Grows older
47 In-person fantasy event, casually
48 "Thinking about it"
49 LAX projections
50 Lack of objectivity
51 Unlikely to get out of hand
52 "Darn straight"
53 Sleeping bag spot
55 "___ Haw"

D	U	C	T	■	P	A	N	I	C	■	J	O	G
O	S	H	A	■	I	N	U	S	E	■	A	C	E
C	H	I	C	K	E	N	R	U	N	■	Y	E	T
■	E	N	T	I	C	E	S	■	A	N	W	A	R
A	R	E	■	S	E	X	E	D	■	B	A	N	E
L	E	S	S	S	O	■	■	I	T	A	L	I	A
I	D	E	A	■	F	A	U	N	A	■	K	A	L
■	■	■	D	U	C	K	T	O	U	R	■	■	■
M	A	C	■	P	A	C	E	S	■	A	M	P	M
A	T	R	I	S	K	■	■	A	S	W	E	L	L
C	L	O	D	■	E	A	T	U	P	■	A	U	K
H	A	W	K	E	■	C	A	R	R	O	T	S	■
I	S	H	■	T	U	R	K	E	Y	T	R	O	T
N	E	O	■	S	T	I	E	G	■	T	U	N	A
E	S	P	■	Y	A	D	I	G	■	O	B	E	Y

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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Dow Jones Indust. Avg. Up 148.01 51,712.71

Business

Nasdaq Comp. Down 351.33 26,166.60

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Mixed marts

The Dow finished with modest gains, and oil prices retreated further on Monday after the US cleared the way for Iran to sell oil in dollars, including to American buyers. The Nasdaq lost more than 1% on a choppy day for tech shares.

Tesla probe

Auto-safety regulators opened an investigation into a fatal wreck involving a Tesla that crashed into a Houston-area home on Friday and killed one person inside. The driver told officials he was using a driver-assistance system.

Eyeing Dallas

Morgan Stanley is considering plans for a $1.33 billion operational hub in Dallas, a sign that the bank is following its Wall Street peers to the Lone Star State.

Dom's shuffle

Domino's Pizza said operations chief Joe Jordan will take over as CEO of the world's biggest pizza company. Russell Weiner will become executive chairman on Oct. 1.

Sky-high stock

Definium Therapeutics said a single dose of its LSD-based experimental pill significantly cut symptoms of depression in patients in a late-stage trial, sending its shares soaring 50%.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

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Served four presidents

Alan Greenspan — in his Federal Reserve Board chairman days and with wife Andrea Mitchell — died Monday after a century of life. The economist had a profound influence on the US economy and coined the phrase "irrational exuberance."

Getty Images

Fed boss legend Greenspan dies

By ARIEL ZILBER
and JAMES FRANEY

Alan Greenspan, the influential economist who led the Federal Reserve for nearly two decades and became one of the most powerful figures in global finance, died Monday at the age of 100.

His wife, veteran NBC News journalist Andrea Mitchell, told CNBC that Greenspan died from complications of Parkinson's disease. The couple married in 1997.

Greenspan served as Fed chairman from 1987 to 2006 under four presidents: Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

During his tenure, he steered the US economy through a series of chaotic events including the 1987 stock market crash, the Asian financial crisis, the dot-com boom and bust, and the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

'The Maestro'

But Greenspan's reputation never fully recovered from the 2008 financial crisis.

Once hailed as "the Maestro" for guiding the economy through years of low inflation and booming markets, Greenspan became a symbol of the pre-crisis faith that Wall Street could largely police itself.

Critics argued that his Fed kept interest rates too low after the 2001 recession, helping fuel the housing bubble. A harsher indictment focused on regulation.

The Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission later faulted the Fed for failing to use its authority to crack down on abusive mortgage lending before the subprime market exploded.

Greenspan had also championed a light-touch approach to derivatives and financial innovation that critics said left the system vulnerable when markets turned.

Known for his often-cryptic public remarks, Greenspan became a Wall Street celebrity during the 1990s economic expansion. His 1996 warning about "irrational exuberance" became one of the most famous phrases in modern economic history.

AI-ING CHINA THREAT

Cheap apps hit US

By THOMAS BARRABI

With a flood of high-powered, cheap Chinese AI models quickly amassing customers across the US, experts are sounding alarms that America's lead in artificial intelligence could be in danger.

GLM-5.2, one such open-source model specializing in coding projects, was released June 16 by China's z.AI, which claims that it is about as advanced as some of the best models offered by Anthropic, OpenAI and Google.

"Genuinely impressed, almost shocked, at how good GLM 5.2 by @zai_org is at coding," Guillermo Rauch, the CEO of US AI firm Vercel, wrote on X. "This changes things."

Mat Velloso, an AI executive who formerly held senior roles at Meta and Google DeepMind, wrote that he had spent "all day" using GLM-5.2.

"First open model that passes the bar as a daily driver," Velloso wrote on X. "Things are not going to be the same."

The Trump administration has been increasingly wary about China's breakneck pace in AI development, with officials warning that China is engaged in "industrial-scale" efforts to rip off AI technology.

OpenAI and Anthropic have accused Chinese firms of using a technique called "distillation" to extract data from American models.

Chinese AI is gaining a foothold in the US market. Of the 10 models included on AI marketplace OpenRouter's most popular rankings, six were developed by Chinese firms, including DeepSeek, Tencent, Xiaomi and MiniMax.

Not 'that long'

z.AI's leadership has begun to burnish its public profile. When Elon Musk predicted last week that a Chinese firm would catch up to Anthropic's frontier models in "probably Q1" of 2027, z.AI founder Jie Tang replied: "won't take that long."

Unlike subscription-based US models, many leading Chinese models are open-source, making them readily available to the public and cheaper for major projects. The cost of AI tokens, a measure of usage, has become so high for top AI models that leading firms like Meta, Uber and Walmart have imposed or plan to impose limits on how much employees can use them.

Cursor, an AI coding firm recently acquired by Musk's SpaceX, admitted in March that its Composer 2 model was built using an open-source model released by China-based Moonshot AI, whose backers including Alibaba.

PageSix® at Cannes 2026

The secret of Sport Beach

SPORT
BEACH
TABATA GOMEZ
JASON KELCE
STAGWELL

Stagwell/ Sport Beach.

A WIN: Sport Beach has had astounding success since its debut at Cannes Lions in 2022, drawing stars like Jason Kelce (above). CEO Beth Sidhu (left) credits the initial idea.

By ALEXANDRA STEIGRAD

BETH Sidhu, the CEO of Sport Beach, has led the charge in launching what has become one of the most transformative beachfront activations at Cannes Lions in recent years.

Created in 2022 by Stagwell, Sport Beach started as a place to bring together athletes, marketers and creatives to facilitate industry discussions and deals.

In recent years, it has grown into a full-fledged sports marketing platform, expanding beyond the shores of Cannes to massive events like the Super Bowl, the NBA All-Star Weekend and CES in Las Vegas.

Sidhu, who was named CEO of Sport Beach earlier this year, spoke to The Post about the company's growth, the lucrative world of sports and what's next for the brand.

Q: Sport Beach has become such a focal point at Cannes Lions. Who came up with the idea and how has the brand grown since its inception?

Beth Sidhu: Sport Beach was the brainchild of my colleagues at 72andSunny Glen Cole and Damien Journey. What they saw was that there was no place for sport in Cannes at all. And so rather than make our activation about our holding company, Stagwell, we thought let's make it about what you would do for a client; make it about an audience, make it about something they care about. So the idea was around sports at the beginning. There was an 's' — it was initially Sports Beach.

I was sent a single slide in October of 2022, and it was an amazing lightning bolt. I thought, this is an idea to bet the house on. Year one was just me running around promising people it wouldn't be Fyre Festival 2.0, and now I really think Sport Beach is the premier and premium home of all sport in Cannes and in many other places. We're bringing together the same audience and really sort of around the calendar and around the world.

Q: What was the moment when you realized it had become something bigger than an event?

BS: The moment I realized what Sport Beach was going to be . . . you know, year one, we had a lot of great moments. Carmelo Anthony, Maria Sharapova, Sue Bird took a chance on the idea, came and leaned in and told their story and built business on the back of Sport Beach, which is the intent.

Year one, no one has any expectations. Season two, people are like, 'Oh, what are you going to do?' We had Travis Kelce, Jason Kelce and a climbing wall. We launched our wine and spirits festival. We went to Davos. So each year has grown on itself and really presented our athletes, brands and marketers with different opportunities to work together. I don't know if there was a moment . . . it's just when it hits, it hits.

Q: Can you give me a sense of how it's grown revenue-wise?

BS: It started with zero, right? It's grown substantially. We don't tell the FCC how much revenue we make for our individual agencies. We're not going to change that here but we have said it's a growing, profitable company and it also drives significant value for our clients, our athletes, Stagwell and my sister agencies at Stagwell. We've said publicly in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Q: What makes sports such a popular topic?

BS: The obvious answers are it is the last appointment viewing and uninterruptible by AI. I think that those two things are important and not going to change. They are fixed and important. In addition, sport has become a cultural mover and a technology mover in a way that it wasn't 10 years ago.

My theory of this case is that everyone's a sports marketer now. Whether or not you work for a sport-endemic brand or one that has never engaged in sport, whether or not you think you're a sports marketer or not. Yeah. Almost every brand around the world B2B, B2C — B2I and by "I", I mean influencer — they are all using sport because of its incredible breadth, incredible diversity and incredible power to move culture.

Q: What mistakes do brands make or misconceptions do they have when working with athletes?

BS: The best brands treat athletes as genuine co-conspirators in the project. Sport Beach is based on this idea of co-creation, where we genuinely treat athletes, brands and marketers as equal partners in any project. The best brands doing the most interesting, coolest, most diverse work are ones that take athletes seriously as business partners, as creators, as thinkers . . . whether or not it's around the development of a podcast or a tequila, you know, the brand's doing it right. Take those athletes seriously. As opposed to a logo slap or an NIL [name, image, likeness] slap, I guess is the athlete equivalent.

Q: Women's sports have experienced extraordinary growth. What opportunities do you think brands are still underestimating when working in the women's sports space?

BS: I'm so glad you asked that question today. We actually just launched our Women's Leadership Council. We have an incredible group of women who are part of it. And what we are trying to do with the council is move past the "everyone invests in women's sports, everybody watches women's sports." Like, yes, now what can we do to advance the conversation?

Our Women's Leadership Council, Fueled by Gatorade, is looking at a specific issue each year. This year is all about coaching and representation. We are going to produce some [intellectual property] and some thoughts about how the industry can move coaching and female representation at the highest levels of coaching forward. That's where Sport Beach wants to be. We want to make sure that anything we do in that area of women's sports is actually just part of sports.

Q: Which brands are doing women's sports right?

BS: So many. I really do think Gatorade and PepsiCo are doing a great job. They have a whole body of science, really science-backed research that looks specifically at female athletes. I think that e.l.f. Beauty is doing really exciting different programs, whether it's partnering with Billie Jean King or their "So many Dicks, so few of everyone else" campaign which you should look up, if only to entertain yourself. They did some research and discovered that the number one name people on corporate boards is Dick. It's a sort of tongue-in-cheek way to get representation on corporate boards.

Q: You've described Sport Beach as a place "where deals start." Can you share some examples of partnerships or businesses that originated there?

BS: Off the top of my head, the number that we use is dozens. That is because, honestly, we stopped counting. We've had an NFL player get a Super Bowl ad. We had an Olympian do a year-long partnership contract with a telco carrier to be the face of that. We've had people ink podcast deals.

Q: Sports brings so many people together. Do you see other industries that do that? Will there be any extensions for Sport Beach?

BS: Music is the obvious one. We announced Cannes' first country music concert. It's on the beach, which will be at Sport Beach in 2027. It's going to bring together sport and music in a way that only Sport Beach can — these two great passions.

ELON MUSK
SpaceX might sell bonds.

Borrow fear hits SpaceX

SpaceX shares tumbled 16% Monday — their third straight day of declines — on news that Elon Musk's rocket company could launch a massive borrowing binge.

After a blockbuster initial public offering earlier this month, SpaceX on Monday revealed in a regulatory filing that it plans to sell investment-grade bonds. The bond offering would aim to raise about $20 billion, according to reports, and could help bankroll costly AI development and longer term goals like building data centers in space.

In addition to the offering of senior unsecured notes, the filing disclosed about $100.8 billion in cash.

Shares closed at $154.60, giving the company a $2.03 trillion market capitalization. That's after SpaceX fell more than 8% Wednesday and Thursday before the market closed on Friday. Shares are still about 15% above their IPO price of $135. *Marc Vartabedian*

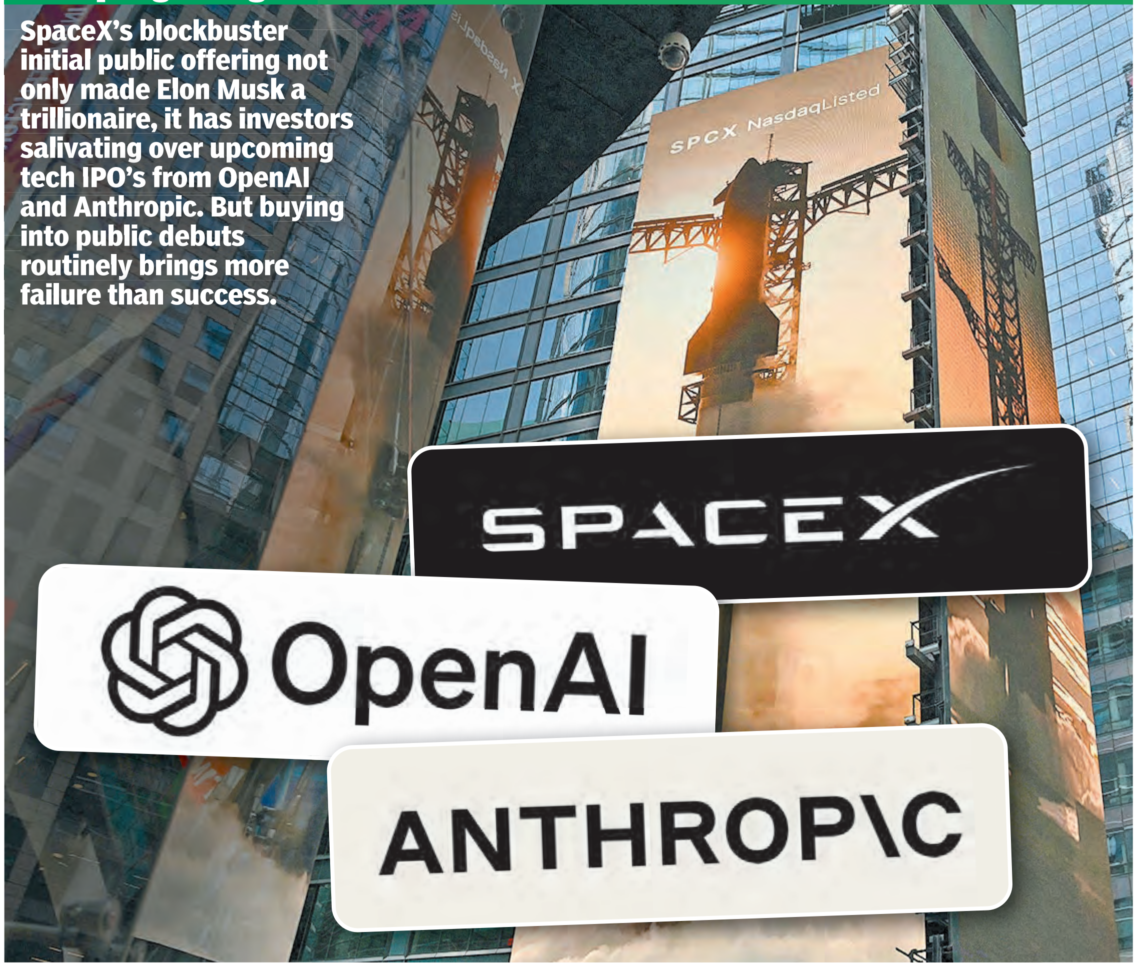
Alphabet in the $oup

Google parent Alphabet plunged 5% on Monday after the departure of two of its most prominent AI researchers raised Wall Street's fears that it's falling behind key rivals.

Last week, Google lost senior research scientist and Nobel Prize winner John Jumper, who is exiting DeepMind AI lab for a role at Anthropic. Noam Shazeer, who served as co-lead of Google's flagship Gemini AI models, ditched the company for a role at OpenAI. *Thomas Barrabi*

BEWARE IPO FRENZY

KEN FISHER



Jumping the gun

SpaceX's blockbuster initial public offering not only made Elon Musk a trillionaire, it has investors salivating over upcoming tech IPO's from OpenAI and Anthropic. But buying into public debuts routinely brings more failure than success.

Stocks can launch big but usually lose steam

SHOULD you be chasing shares of SpaceX? How about Anthropic and OpenAI if and when they go public later this year? To get to an answer, let's explore the various meanings of "IPO."

These three letters — I, P and O — excite emotions like few others in finance. Elon Musk's rocket company launched an initial public offering this month that has made Musk a trillionaire while instantly minting millions and even billions for many of his friends and employees.

Now, investors are salivating over more blockbuster IPOs that could land in the months ahead: OpenAI, Anthropic, Databricks and Anduril among them. Yet history shows that buying into public debuts routinely brings more failure than success. Beware the hype.

Current aspirants sport flashy Silicon Valley and artificial-intelligence themes. Their arrival isn't a coincidence: Tech and AI sentiment has run hot for many months. Founders and early investors want maximum benefit when selling ownership stakes to the public. Enthusiasm juices prices.

This creates a tension: Founders crave selling high, while IPO buyers crave getting in low. Which group likely knows more about these firms? Add in investment banks' splashy marketing road shows and the knowledge divide broadens. Hence what I detailed in my 1987 book "The Wall Street Waltz": "IPO" actually stands for "It's Probably Overpriced."

Long-term risk

Yes, some IPOs leap early like SpaceX, as investment banks misjudge demand and shortchange sellers and the firm. Ideally, the first day should be flat — rare! But still rarer, history shows, are IPOs that live up to their hype in the longer term.

Let's consider a few stats: Since 1990, 52% of newly listed firms lagged the S&P 500 their first month by a median -0.3%. Three months out, both metrics worsened — with 60% lagging by a median -5%. Six months? A clear pattern is emerging and it isn't pretty — with 63% lagging by a median -11%.

A year and two years out, it's even worse with the lag rate nearing an ugly 70% — and by decidedly uglier medians of -20% and -35%, respectively. Yuck!

Time is usually your friend with stocks. Not so with IPOs. Of the 48% that led in their first month, 56% of those lagged a year out. Love the long-term future earnings of today's darlings? Fine! But is that in the next 3 to 30 months, the time frame stocks typically price? Doubt it. Regardless, history shows better entry points are highly likely after IPO hype fades.

Some say today's mega IPOs are different, hawking them as "can't miss" opportunities. But the reality is, as 19th-century retailing legend John G. Shedd famously observed, "Opportunities are seldom labeled." Name recognition also means little. Remember Facebook's 2012 faceplant? Or Uber's uber-underwhelming 2019 debut? Ask yourself: What do you actually know about these stocks that others don't? Anything?

And if they sputter, how quickly can you escape? Brokerage rules often restrict flipping IPO shares within 30 days. Usually, investors benefiting most from IPO spikes are those allocated shares before the listing. But even those that are able to buy at the issue price often can't flip fast enough because they're tied to lock-up rules.

Odds are you'll suffer

Meanwhile, many IPOs' early-stage institutional and private owners surely salivate at chances to lighten up some. Who goes first?

Even happy outcomes breed risk, as IPO also stands for "It's Priming Overconfidence." If your IPO buy pops, the dopamine hits hard — feels great — heroin for those onboard. Pride swells. More IPOs, please! But the data prove this only increases the odds that your overall returns will suffer. Think you'll emerge unscathed? It's pure overconfidence.

Then, amid the frenzy, can you get enough shares for it to be a game changer financially? Unlikely, and if so, yet another problem arises: Concentrated positions amount to gambling. Successful investing isn't some get-rich-quick, Vegas-like wager. It's a get-a-great-retirement-gradually journey requiring patience and discipline.

Another way to unpack "IPO": "Increasingly Puffed-up Optimism." While we aren't yet broadly in euphoria, expectations are frothy for almost everything related to AI and US tech. Hence firms lining up to go public. But elevated sentiment makes positive surprise still harder to attain. That favors extra caution.

Remember: For every buyer there is a seller, and one of them is wrong. And in history, there are no legendary investors — zero — who have ever been known for their astute IPO picks. So why do you think you can do better?

Hype is hazardous. Heed the many meanings of "IPO."

Ken Fisher is the founder and executive chairman of Fisher Investments, a four-time New York Times bestselling author, and regular columnist in 21 countries globally.

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4th of July Early Deadlines for Classified

Publication Date	Ad Deadline
Fri. July 3rd - Mon. July 6th	Thurs. July 2 11:30AM

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Enjoy Your Holiday!

NEW YORK POST

Backup job on table for Garand

By MOLLIE WALKER

Dylan Garand is first in line to succeed Jonathan Quick as Rangers backup goalie next season after signing a two-year contract extension Sunday.

Breaking through to the NHL level for the first time this past season, Garand appeared in three games for the Blueshirts and played well enough to position himself behind No. 1 goalie Igor Shesterkin on the organizational depth chart.

The new contract comes with financial protection on both sides as Garand works to establish himself as an NHL netminder.

The first year of Garand's deal is a two-way contract that pays the 24-year-old $850,000 at the NHL level and $400,000 in the AHL, according to a source. It becomes a one-way contract the following year for the league minimum of $900,000 under the 2027-28 salary cap.

"We'll see. I mean, I'm just trying to be the best I can be every day," Garand said on breakup day when asked if the backup role was his going forward. "I'm definitely hungry to play in this league and for this organization. It's very motivating for me going back into the summer.

"To be here and see what it takes, now I know and I know what I need to do this summer to come in and be prepared and put my best foot forward and execute."

Despite his limited NHL opportunities last season, Garand went 2-0-1 with a .948 save percentage and a 1.62 goals-against average. He also finished with 3.9 goals saved above expected, per MoneyPuck.com.

The Rangers were evidently not sold on Garand earlier in the season, when injuries to both Shesterkin and Quick required the team to recall a goalie from Hartford. The 31-year-old Spencer Martin, whom the Rangers signed out of the KHL, ultimately got the nod and played in six NHL games.

Martin is signed through next season with an $850,000 cap hit.

If the Rangers aren't going to start with Garand as the No. 2, he would require waivers to be returned to Hartford out of training camp. The Rangers would risk losing Garand for nothing if they do that, but it's unclear if he's earned enough trust for the role yet.

mwalker1@nypost.com

Brewers 2, Reds 1

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Yelich dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.263
Chourio lf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.294
Turang 2b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.263
Contreras c	3	0	0	0	1	0	.295
Bauers 1b	3	1	0	0	1	2	.266
Mitchell cf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.249
Frelick rf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.232
Ortiz ss-3b	3	0	0	1	0	1	.203
Hamilton 3b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.233
Vaughn ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.349
Pratt ss	1	0	0	0	0	0	.350
Totals	**31**	**2**	**3**	**1**	**3**	**11**	

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Dunn cf	4	1	0	0	0	0	.280
Bleday lf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.249
Stewart 1b	4	0	0	1	0	2	.248
Lowe dh	2	0	0	0	0	1	.254
Myers ph-dh	2	0	1	0	0	0	.267
Steer 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.237
Suárez 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.204
Marte rf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.216
Stephenson c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.213
McLain ss	3	0	0	0	0	3	.202
Totals	**32**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**14**	

Milwaukee	**000 000 000**	**2 —**	**2**	**3**	**0**
Cincinnati	**000 000 000**	**1 —**	**1**	**2**	**0**

LOB: Milwaukee 5, Cincinnati 2. **2B:** Turang (16). **RBIs:** Ortiz (15), Stewart (54). **SF:** Ortiz. **S:** Frelick. **Runners left in scoring position:** Milwaukee 3 (Mitchell, Ortiz 2); Cincinnati 0. **RISP:** Milwaukee 0 for 6; Cincinnati 0 for 2. **Runners moved up:** Frelick, Bleday.

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Woodruff	6.0	1	0	0	0	10	79	3.00
Ashby	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	17	3.11
Uribe	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	3.49
Megill, W, 2-2	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	3.86
Kuhnel, S, 5-6	1.0	1	1	0	0	0	10	4.35

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Singer	7.0	2	0	0	2	7	106	4.81
Moll	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	12	3.09
Antone	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	11	2.66
Burke	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	6	2.97
Santillan, L, 1-4	1.0	0	2	1	1	0	13	5.23

T: 2:28. **A:** 17,971 (43,891).

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	12	4	.750	—
Liberty	11	6	.647	1½
Indiana	10	7	.588	2½
Washington	8	7	.533	3½
Toronto	8	9	.471	4½
Chicago	4	12	.250	8
Connecticut	3	15	.167	10

West	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	13	4	.765	—
Las Vegas	12	4	.750	½
Dallas	11	6	.647	2
Golden State	10	7	.588	3
Los Angeles	8	8	.500	4½
Portland	8	9	.471	5
Phoenix	5	13	.278	8½
Seattle	3	15	.167	10½

Monday

Connecticut 92, Chicago 63
Atlanta 94, Toronto 87
Indiana 86, Phoenix 77
Dallas 112, Seattle 110, OT

Tuesday

Liberty at Las Vegas, 10pm

Wednesday

Minnesota at Washington, 7:30pm
Phoenix at Indiana, 7:30pm
Portland at Chicago, 8pm
Atlanta at Golden State, 10pm

Thursday

Liberty at Seattle, 10pm
Los Angeles at Toronto, 7pm
Dallas at Las Vegas, 10pm

Nationals 4, Phillies 1

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turner ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.224
Schwarber dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.252
Harper 1b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.269
Bohm 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.229
Sosa lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.231
Crawford ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.243
Marsh rf	3	1	1	1	0	1	.311
Hill cf	3	0	1	0	0	2	.222
Stott 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.233
Marchán c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.107
Totals	**32**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**0**	**12**	

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wood rf	4	2	2	0	1	2	.273
Mead 3b	5	1	1	2	0	1	.227
Crews lf	5	0	2	1	0	1	.209
Abrams ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.286
Young cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.229
Lile dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.248
Ruiz c	3	0	2	0	0	0	.288
García 1b	4	1	1	1	0	0	.259
Nuñez 2b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.241
Totals	**37**	**4**	**12**	**4**	**1**	**8**	

Philadelphia	**000 000 100 —**	**1**	**5**	**1**
Washington	**110 000 20x —**	**4**	**12**	**2**

E: Turner (8), Mead (6), Nuñez (9). **LOB:** Philadelphia 4, Washington 11. **2B:** Hill (2), Wood (19), Crews (4), Ruiz (15). **HR:** Marsh (10), off Griffin; García (11), off Rangel; Mead (12), off Johnson. **RBIs:** Marsh (36), Crews (17), García (47), Mead 2 (36). **SB:** Nuñez (29). **Runners left in scoring position:** Philadelphia 1 (Turner); Washington 6 (Young, Lile 2, Nuñez, Crews 2). **RISP:** Philadelphia 0 for 3; Washington 2 for 12. **DP:** Washington 2 (Nuñez, Abrams, García; Abrams, Nuñez, García).

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Mayza, L, 2-2	1.0	2	1	1	0	2	24	3.15
Rangel	5.0	5	1	1	0	4	72	2.25
Johnson	1.0	3	2	2	0	0	17	7.94
Shugart	1.0	2	0	0	1	2	24	3.16

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Griffin, W, 8-2	7.1	4	1	1	0	9	105	3.15
Lovelady, H, 7	0.2	0	0	0	0	2	9	2.76
Beeter, S, 6-8	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	6	3.47

T: 2:28. **A:** 18,237 (41,376).

Orioles 6, Angels 1

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ward lf	5	2	2	1	0	1	.258
Henderson ss	4	1	3	1	1	1	.229
Alonso 1b	4	1	1	1	0	2	.249
Mayo dh-3b	4	1	1	3	0	1	.190
O'Neill rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.186
Alexander 3b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.310
Taveras 3b-cf	3	0	2	0	0	0	.259
Bradish p-p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Cowser cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.232
Garcia p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Jackson 2b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.255
Huff c	4	0	0	0	0	3	.174
Totals	**37**	**6**	**11**	**6**	**1**	**12**	

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Neto ss	4	0	1	0	0	3	.225
Schanuel 1b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.262
Adell rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.248
Soler dh	4	1	1	1	0	2	.220
Meckler lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.279
Guzman 3b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.255
Walton 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.338
O'Hoppe c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.240
Siri cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.284
Totals	**33**	**1**	**7**	**1**	**1**	**10**	

Baltimore	**100 310 100 —**	**6**	**11**	**0**
Los Angeles	**000 000 001 —**	**1**	**7**	**0**

LOB: Baltimore 6, Los Angeles 6. **2B:** Taveras (10). **3B:** Henderson (2). **HR:** Ward (5), off Aldegheri; Mayo (10), off Aldegheri; Soler (10), off Garcia. **RBIs:** Ward (22), Mayo 3 (30), Alonso (53), Henderson (39), Soler (34). **SB:** Jackson (2). **SF:** Alonso. **Runners left in scoring position:** Baltimore 3 (Mayo, Huff 2); Los Angeles 2 (Soler, Meckler). **RISP:** Baltimore 2 for 9; Los Angeles 0 for 4. **Runners moved up:** Schanuel. **GIDP:** Walton. **DP:** Baltimore 1 (Henderson, Alonso); Los Angeles 1 (O'Hoppe, Guzman, Walton).

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bradish, W, 5-7	8.0	6	0	0	1	9	101	3.64
Garcia	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	9	1.95

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Aldegheri, L, 2-3	4.2	5	5	5	1	3	91	5.47
Fermin	1.1	2	0	0	0	3	26	4.42
Suter	2.0	3	1	1	0	3	35	4.14
Yates	1.0	1	0	0	0	3	13	3.45

T: 2:34. **A:** 28,431 (45,517).

White Sox 6, Guardians 5

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Bazzana 2b	3	2	1	0	2	0	.274
Fry lf	2	0	0	0	1	1	.219
Watson ph	1	0	1	2	0	0	.077
Bailey c	1	1	1	1	0	0	.186
Rocchio ss	5	0	3	0	0	1	.275
Hoskins 1b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.176
Manzardo dh	3	0	0	1	1	3	.235
Arias 3b	5	0	0	0	0	5	.192
Fairchild rf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.167
Kwan ph-lf	0	1	0	0	2	0	.206
Hedges c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.255
Schneemann ph-cf	2	1	1	0	0	0	.216
Halpin cf-rf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.156
Totals	**34**	**5**	**8**	**5**	**6**	**15**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Antonacci lf	4	1	2	3	1	1	.291
Vargas 1b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.236
Benintendi dh	2	0	1	1	0	0	.236
Grichuk ph-dh	2	1	1	1	0	0	.264
Teel c	4	0	0	0	0	3	.000
C.Montgomery 3b	4	0	0	0	0	4	.218
Meidroth 2b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.270
B.Montgomery rf	3	2	2	1	1	1	.262
Peters cf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.289
Acuña ss	3	0	1	0	0	0	.215
Gonzalez ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.163
Totals	**35**	**6**	**10**	**6**	**2**	**13**	

Cleveland	**000 000 302 —**	**5**	**8**	**0**
Chicago	**011 001 102 —**	**6**	**10**	**0**

Two outs when winning run scored. **LOB:** Cleveland 10, Chicago 5. **2B:** Rocchio (12), B.Montgomery 2 (5), Peters (17). **HR:** Grichuk (8), off Herrin. **RBIs:** Watson 2 (2), Hoskins (27), Bailey (11), Manzardo (27), B.Montgomery (5), Benintendi (38), Grichuk (21), Antonacci 3 (22). **SB:** Acuña (13), Watson (1), Antonacci 2 (11). **SF:** Manzardo. **RISP:** Cleveland 3 for 12; Chicago 4 for 11.

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Williams	5.0	5	2	2	1	8	95	3.82
Herrin	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	16	3.08
Armstrong	1.0	2	1	1	0	1	14	3.32
Smith, L, 2-1	1.2	2	2	2	1	3	28	2.78

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Kay	6.0	3	0	0	2	8	101	4.24
Taylor, BS, 2-4	0.2	3	3	3	2	2	30	3.05
Hudson	1.1	0	0	0	1	3	23	2.19
Domínguez, BS, 12-17	0.1	2	2	2	1	1	22	4.45
Murphy, W, 2-0	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	6	5.27

T: 3:03. **A:** 23,151 (40,241).

NASCAR

NASCAR Cup Series Schedule-Winners

March 1 — DuraMAX Texas Grand Prix Powered by RelaDyne (Tyler Reddick)
March 8 — Straight Talk Wireless 500 (Ryan Blaney)
March 15 — Pennzoil 400 presented by Jiffy Lube (Denny Hamlin)
March 22 — Goodyear 400 (Tyler Reddick)
March 29 — Cook Out 400 (Chase Elliott)
April 12 — Food City 500 (Ty Gibbs)
April 19 — AdventHealth 400 (Tyler Reddick)
April 26 — Jack Link's 500 (Carson Hocevar)
May 3 — Würth 400 presented by LIQUI MOLY (Chase Elliott)
May 10 — Go Bowling at The Glen (Shane Van Gisbergen)
May 17 — NASCAR All-Star Race (Denny Hamlin)
May 24 — Coca-Cola 600 (Daniel Suárez)
May 31 — Cracker Barrel 400 (Denny Hamlin)
June 7 — FireKeepers Casino 400 (Denny Hamlin)
June 14 — Great American Getaway 400 presented by VISITPA (Denny Hamlin)
June 21 — Anduril 250 (Corey Heim)
June 28 — Toyota / Save Mart 350, Sonoma, Calif.
July 5 — eero 400, Joliet, Ill.
July 12 — Quaker State 400 Available at Walmart, Hampton, Ga.
July 19 — Window World 450, North Wilkesboro, N.C.
July 26 — Brickyard 400, Speedway, Ind.
Aug. 9 — Iowa Corn 350 Powered by Ethanol, Newton, Iowa
Aug. 15 — Cook Out 400, Richmond, Va.
Aug. 23 — Dollar Tree 301, Loudon, N.H.
Aug. 29 — Coke Zero Sugar 400, Daytona Beach, Fla.
Sept. 6 — Cook Out Southern 500, Darlington, S.C.
Sept. 13 — Enjoy Illinois 300, Madison, Ill.
Sept. 19 — Bass Pro Shops Night Race, Bristol, Tenn.

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Yankees	46	31	.597	—	—	5-5	L-3	22-15	24-16
Tampa Bay	43	32	.573	2	+5½	3-7	L-1	26-11	17-21
Toronto	39	39	.500	7½	—	6-4	W-2	22-18	17-21
Baltimore	38	42	.475	9½	2	5-5	W-3	22-19	16-23
Boston	31	45	.408	14½	7	4-6	L-2	12-25	19-20

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Cleveland	41	38	.519	—	+1½	4-6	L-2	19-17	22-21
Chicago	40	37	.519	—	—	4-6	W-1	25-12	15-25
Minnesota	38	42	.475	3½	2	7-3	L-1	20-20	18-22
Detroit	34	44	.436	6½	5	6-4	W-4	22-16	12-28
Kansas City	33	46	.418	8	6½	5-5	W-1	19-22	14-24

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Seattle	40	39	.506	—	—	4-6	W-1	22-19	18-20
Athletics	38	40	.487	1½	1	5-5	L-2	18-23	20-17
Texas	38	40	.487	1½	1	4-6	W-2	19-18	19-22
Houston	37	43	.463	3½	3	6-4	L-1	20-21	17-22
Los Angeles	32	48	.400	8½	8	4-6	L-1	17-21	15-27

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Monday

Detroit 5, **Yankees** 3
Kansas City 2, Tampa Bay 1
Texas 4, Miami 3
Toronto 4, Houston 2
L.A. Dodgers 2, Minnesota 1
White Sox 6, Cleveland 5
Colorado 3, Boston 2
Baltimore 6, L.A. Angels 1

Tuesday

Yankees at Detroit, 6:40
Houston at Toronto, 4:07
Kansas City at Tampa Bay, 6:40
Seattle at Pittsburgh, 6:40
Texas at Miami, 6:40
Cleveland at White Sox, 7:40
L.A. Dodgers at Minnesota, 7:40
Boston at Colorado, 8:40
Baltimore at L.A. Angels, 9:38
Athletics at San Francisco, 9:45

Wednesday

Yankees at Detroit, 6:40
Texas at Miami, 12:10
Cleveland at White Sox, 2:10
Boston at Colorado, 3:10
Baltimore at L.A. Angels, 4:07
Kansas City at Tampa Bay, 6:40
Seattle at Pittsburgh, 6:40
Houston at Toronto, 7:07
L.A. Dodgers at Minnesota, 7:40
Athletics at San Francisco, 9:45

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	48	29	.623	—	—	3-7	L-2	24-14	24-15
Philadelphia	42	36	.538	6½	+1½	5-5	L-1	23-19	19-17
Washington	41	38	.519	8	—	6-4	W-1	17-22	24-16
Miami	40	39	.506	9	1	6-4	L-1	26-17	14-22
Mets	34	43	.442	14	6	5-5	L-2	18-18	16-25

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	47	29	.618	—	—	6-4	W-2	25-15	22-14
St. Louis	42	34	.553	5	+2½	5-5	W-2	22-17	20-17
Chicago	40	37	.519	7½	—	6-4	L-1	23-17	17-20
Pittsburgh	39	39	.500	9	1½	4-6	W-1	20-19	19-20
Cincinnati	37	40	.481	10½	3	5-5	L-1	19-20	18-20

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	50	29	.633	—	—	6-4	W-1	26-14	24-15
San Diego	40	37	.519	9	—	5-5	W-1	20-19	20-18
Arizona	39	39	.500	10½	1½	5-5	L-3	24-17	15-22
San Francisco	31	46	.403	18	9	4-6	L-3	14-20	17-26
Colorado	31	48	.392	19	10	5-5	W-1	17-21	14-27

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Monday

Cubs at **Mets**, ppd.
Washington 4, Philadelphia 1
Texas 4, Miami 3
Milwaukee 2, Cincinnati 1, 10 inn.
L.A. Dodgers 2, Minnesota 1
St. Louis 3, Arizona 2
Colorado 3, Boston 2
San Diego 1, Atlanta 0

Tuesday

Cubs at **Mets**, 7:10
Seattle at Pittsburgh, 6:40
Texas at Miami, 6:40
Philadelphia at Washington, 6:45
Milwaukee at Cincinnati, 7:10
L.A. Dodgers at Minnesota, 7:40
Arizona at St. Louis, 7:45
Boston at Colorado, 8:40
Atlanta at San Diego, 9:40
Athletics at San Francisco, 9:45

Wednesday

Cubs at **Mets**, 1:10, 1st game
Cubs at **Mets**, 7:10, 2nd game
Texas at Miami, 12:10
Boston at Colorado, 3:10
Seattle at Pittsburgh, 6:40
Philadelphia at Washington, 6:45
Milwaukee at Cincinnati, 7:10
L.A. Dodgers at Minnesota, 7:40
Arizona at St. Louis, 7:45
Atlanta at San Diego, 8:40
Athletics at San Francisco, 9:45

POST SU DOKU

Puzzles on Page 32

1	7	3	9	6	4	2	8	5
9	2	5	1	7	8	3	4	6
8	4	6	2	3	5	9	7	1
2	6	1	4	8	3	5	9	7
3	8	7	5	1	9	6	2	4
4	5	9	7	2	6	8	1	3
5	9	2	3	4	7	1	6	8
6	1	4	8	5	2	7	3	9
7	3	8	6	9	1	4	5	2

Solution to Very Easy #7,318

6	3	1	9	8	4	7	5	2
9	8	4	2	7	5	6	3	1
5	7	2	1	3	6	4	8	9
4	9	6	3	1	7	5	2	8
7	2	3	5	9	8	1	6	4
8	1	5	6	4	2	9	7	3
2	4	9	7	6	3	8	1	5
1	5	7	8	2	9	3	4	6
3	6	8	4	5	1	2	9	7

Solution to Difficult #7,108

Tigers 5, Yankees 3

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Rosario 3b	5	1	1	2	0	2	.248
Rice dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.288
Goldschmidt 1b	4	0	2	0	0	2	.293
Bellinger cf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.273
Volpe ss	4	0	2	0	0	1	.269
Chisholm 2b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.226
Domínguez rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.226
Caballero lf	3	1	0	0	1	1	.258
Sánchez c	2	0	1	1	0	1	.316
Wells pr-c	1	1	0	0	0	0	.162
Totals	**34**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**2**	**12**	

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McGonigle 3b	5	0	2	2	0	0	.285
Dingler c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.265
Carpenter rf	3	1	1	0	0	0	.227
Vierling ph-rf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.199
Greene lf	2	2	1	1	2	0	.292
Torkelson 1b	3	0	2	1	0	0	.213
Keith dh	4	0	1	1	0	1	.260
Outman cf	3	0	0	0	1	3	.163
Lee 2b	3	1	1	0	0	1	.234
McKinstry ss	4	1	1	0	0	0	.179
Totals	**32**	**5**	**9**	**5**	**3**	**7**	

Yankees	**010 000 200**	**—**	**3**	**7**	**2**
Detroit	**003 110 00x**	**—**	**5**	**9**	**0**

E: Caballero (6), Sánchez (1). **LOB:** New York 7, Detroit 8. **2B:** Sánchez (2), Torkelson (16), McGonigle (17). **3B:** McKinstry (2). **HR:** Rosario (7), off Anderson; Greene (9), off Cole. **RBIs:** Sánchez (3), Rosario 2 (22), McGonigle 2 (28), Torkelson (31), Keith (17), Greene (34). **SB:** Caballero (17). **S:** Lee. **RISP:** New York 1 for 5; Detroit 2 for 11.

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cole, L, 2-2	4.1	9	5	5	1	5	89	3.62
Blackburn	1.2	0	0	0	0	2	18	2.78
Yarbrough	2.0	0	0	0	2	0	31	3.99

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Valdez, W, 4-5	6.0	4	1	1	2	8	94	3.91
Anderson	1.1	1	2	2	0	2	19	4.04
Sommers, H, 2	0.1	2	0	0	0	0	6	0.00
Vest, S, 2-6	1.1	0	0	0	0	2	12	5.61

T: 2:44. **A:** 24,284 (41,083).

Blue Jays 4, Astros 2

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Peña ss	2	1	1	0	0	0	.286
Matthews ph-3b	2	0	1	0	0	1	.209
Alvarez lf	2	1	1	0	2	1	.323
Walker 1b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.238
Paredes dh	3	0	1	1	1	1	.247
Altuve 2b	3	0	1	1	1	1	.236
Diaz c	3	0	0	0	1	0	.237
Loperfido rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.229
Meyers cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.205
Trammell ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.273
Delgado 3b-ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.286
Totals	**29**	**2**	**5**	**2**	**6**	**9**	

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Springer dh	4	1	2	0	1	2	.228
Lukes rf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.304
Guerrero 1b	4	0	2	1	0	1	.283
Kirk c	4	0	1	1	0	0	.205
Varsho cf	4	1	1	0	1	1	.256
Okamoto 3b	3	1	2	1	1	1	.234
Sánchez lf	1	0	0	0	1	0	.280
Straw ph-lf	0	0	0	1	0	0	.242
Clement 2b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.293
Giménez ss	3	1	1	0	0	1	.234
Totals	**30**	**4**	**11**	**4**	**5**	**8**	

Houston	**100 001 000**	**—**	**2**	**5**	**1**
Toronto	**010 100 11x**	**—**	**4**	**11**	**0**

E: Delgado (1). **LOB:** Houston 6, Toronto 13. **2B:** Okamoto (11). **HR:** Okamoto (17), off Brown. **RBIs:** Paredes (38), Altuve (21), Okamoto (46), Guerrero (32), Straw (10), Kirk (6). **SB:** Peña 2 (7), Varsho (6). **SF:** Guerrero, Straw, Kirk. **S:** Lukes. **Runners left in scoring position:** Houston 2 (Altuve, Diaz); Toronto 6 (Giménez, Varsho 2, Lukes, Clement 2). **RISP:** Houston 2 for 8; Toronto 1 for 9. **DP:** Houston 2 (Altuve, Peña, Walker; Delgado, Walker); Toronto 3 (Giménez, Clement, Guerrero; Clement, Giménez, Guerrero; Giménez, Clement, Guerrero).

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Brown	3.0	4	1	1	2	4	85	1.40
Blubaugh	2.0	2	1	1	2	1	38	3.81
De Los Santos, L, 0-2	1.1	2	1	1	0	2	19	4.32
King	0.2	0	0	0	1	1	11	2.45
VanWey	1.0	3	1	1	0	0	16	2.25

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cease	5.2	3	2	2	4	8	110	2.75
Fisher, W, 3-2	1.1	0	0	0	0	0	6	3.07
Rogers, H, 17	1.0	2	0	0	1	0	19	1.72
Varland, S, 16-16	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	12	0.84

T: 2:56. **A:** 42,273 (39,150).

Royals 2, Rays 1

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Jensen c	4	0	1	1	0	1	.244
Garcia ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.261
Caglianone 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.270
Perez dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.206
Massey 2b	3	1	0	0	1	0	.261
Thomas cf	4	0	1	1	0	1	.232
Rave rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.300
Loftin 3b	3	1	1	0	0	1	.242
Collins lf	2	0	0	0	1	0	.227
Totals	**31**	**2**	**4**	**2**	**2**	**7**	

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Díaz dh	3	0	1	1	1	1	.326
DeLuca cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.269
Mullins ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.198
Aranda 1b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.276
Mesa pr-rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.174
Caminero 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.276
Vilade rf-1b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.286
Simpson lf	4	0	2	0	0	0	.266
Williamson ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.240
Fortes c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.246
Palacios 2b	3	1	1	0	0	0	.237
Totals	**31**	**1**	**6**	**1**	**2**	**8**	

Kansas City	**010 010 000**	**—**	**2**	**4**	**0**
Tampa Bay	**000 010 000**	**—**	**1**	**6**	**0**

LOB: Kansas City 4, Tampa Bay 5. **2B:** Garcia (17), Thomas (7), Simpson (5), Vilade (6), Díaz (13). **RBIs:** Thomas (22), Jensen (40), Díaz (50). **SB:** Loftin (1). **CS:** Mesa (2). **Runners left in scoring position:** Kansas City 4 (Caglianone 2, Perez, Collins); Tampa Bay 4 (Simpson, Palacios, Fortes, DeLuca). **RISP:** Kansas City 1 for 8; Tampa Bay 0 for 7. **DP:** Kansas City 1 (Massey, Caglianone).

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Wacha, W, 5-5	7.0	6	1	1	1	5	99	3.48
Schreiber, H, 5	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	18	2.56
Lange, S, 6-6	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	15	3.86

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rasmussen, L, 6-4	6.0	4	2	2	2	5	90	2.62
Booser	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	9	1.00
Sulser	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	5.58
Kimbrel	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	14	5.21

T: 2:13. **A:** 11,298 (25,025).

Dodgers 2, Twins 1

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ohtani dh	4	1	1	1	1	0	.296
Pages cf	5	0	0	0	0	1	.264
Freeman 1b	4	1	1	1	0	2	.273
Betts ss	3	0	0	0	1	1	.214
Muncy 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.265
Tucker rf	0	0	0	0	1	0	.234
Call pr-rf	3	0	2	0	0	1	.260
Edman 2b-lf	4	0	2	0	0	0	.412
Rushing c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.252
Robinson c	3	0	0	0	0	2	.000
Ward lf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.220
M.Rojas ph-2b	1	0	1	0	0	0	.265
Freeland ph-2b	1	0	1	0	0	0	.234
Totals	**35**	**2**	**9**	**2**	**3**	**8**	

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Larnach lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.280
Martin ph-lf	2	0	1	0	1	0	.238
Buxton cf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.275
Clemens rf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.239
Bell dh	2	0	0	0	2	0	.248
Lewis 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.204
Caratini c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.236
Lee 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.238
Keaschall 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.252
Kreidler ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.284
Totals	**30**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**4**	**5**	

Los Angeles	**100 001 000**	**—**	**2**	**9**	**0**
Minnesota	**100 000 000**	**—**	**1**	**3**	**0**

LOB: Los Angeles 9, Minnesota 6. **2B:** Muncy (10). **HR:** Ohtani (17), off Matthews; Freeman (13), off Matthews; Buxton (25), off Klein. **RBIs:** Ohtani (44), Freeman (41), Buxton (41). **Runners left in scoring position:** Los Angeles 6 (Ward, Robinson 3, Pages, Call); Minnesota 1 (Caratini). **RISP:** Los Angeles 0 for 7; Minnesota 0 for 1. **Runners moved up:** Edman. **GIDP:** Ohtani. **DP:** Minnesota 1 (Keaschall, Kreidler, Lewis).

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Klein	1.0	2	1	1	1	2	32	2.59
Lauer, W, 3-5	6.0	0	0	0	3	2	84	4.87
Hurt, H, 7	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	11	3.55
Scott, S, 10-11	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	11	2.25

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Matthews, L, 3-5	6.0	6	2	2	2	5	108	4.56
Rogers	1.1	1	0	0	0	1	17	4.97
Orze	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	11	4.66
Morris	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	15	4.41

T: 2:31. **A:** 35,244 (38,544).

Rangers 4, Marlins 3

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Pederson dh	4	0	2	0	0	1	.233
Foscue ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.263
Langford cf	4	0	0	0	1	1	.264
Jung 3b	5	0	0	0	0	3	.304
Nimmo rf	3	2	3	0	1	0	.269
Burger 1b	2	1	0	0	2	1	.251
Duran ss	4	1	1	2	0	0	.270
Osuna lf	3	0	1	1	1	1	.250
Díaz c	3	0	1	1	0	0	.298
N.Lopez 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.303
Totals	**33**	**4**	**9**	**4**	**5**	**7**	

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Hernández lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.227
O.Lopez ss	3	1	2	0	1	1	.336
Stowers 1b	4	0	1	1	0	2	.224
Edwards 2b	3	0	2	1	1	0	.290
Marsee cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.202
Ruiz rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.260
Caissie ph-rf	2	1	1	0	0	1	.225
Jiménez ph-3b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.182
Conine dh	3	0	0	0	0	2	.207
Norby ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.209
Sanoja 3b-rf	3	0	0	1	0	0	.243
Mack c	3	1	1	0	0	2	.250
Totals	**32**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**2**	**13**	

Texas	**000 200 020**	**—**	**4**	**9**	**0**
Miami	**000 011 010**	**—**	**3**	**7**	**0**

LOB: Texas 8, Miami 5. **2B:** Nimmo (19), Osuna (4), O.Lopez (21), Stowers (13). **HR:** Duran (6), off Phillips. **RBIs:** Duran 2 (40), Osuna (12), Díaz (10), Sanoja (25), Edwards (27), Stowers (29). **SB:** O.Lopez (16), Nimmo (3). **SF:** Díaz, Sanoja. **RISP:** Texas 1 for 5; Miami 2 for 7. **DP:** Miami 1 (O.Lopez, Edwards, Stowers).

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Alexander	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	15	2.87
Rocker	5.0	5	2	2	0	9	76	4.14
Ahlstrom, W, 2-0	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	8	1.00
Junis, H, 9	0.2	1	1	1	1	0	17	2.20
Latz, S, 14-16	1.1	1	0	0	1	2	31	1.46

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Phillips	6.0	5	2	2	3	4	89	3.09
Petersen	0.2	2	0	0	0	1	13	3.27
Bender	0.1	0	0	0	1	1	7	2.84
Faucher, L, 4-4	1.0	2	2	2	1	0	24	3.58
Fulton	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	16	2.57

T: 2:50. **A:** 20,008 (37,446).

Cardinals 3, Diamondbacks 2

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Marte 2b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.263
Perdomo ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.237
Carroll rf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.284
Smith 1b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.174
Vargas ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.261
Arenado 3b	4	0	1	1	0	0	.239
Del Castillo c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.190
Gurriel dh	3	0	0	0	0	0	.205
Troy lf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.240
Tawa cf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.172
Totals	**34**	**2**	**8**	**2**	**0**	**2**	

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt 2b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.271
Herrera c	3	0	1	0	1	0	.266
Burleson 1b	2	0	1	1	1	0	.288
Walker rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.287
Nootbaar lf	2	1	0	0	2	1	.269
Winn ss	4	1	1	0	0	1	.245
Crooks dh	3	0	0	0	0	0	.163
Jordan 3b	2	0	0	1	0	0	.270
Church cf	3	1	2	1	0	0	.269
Totals	**27**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**4**	**4**	

Arizona	**000 001 100**	**—**	**2**	**8**	**0**
St. Louis	**001 200 00x**	**—**	**3**	**7**	**0**

LOB: Arizona 6, St. Louis 6. **2B:** Tawa (3), Carroll (17). **HR:** Troy (3), off Stanek. **RBIs:** Arenado (32), Troy (5), Burleson (56), Jordan (8), Church (20). **SB:** Church (5), Marte (1). **SF:** Jordan. **Runners left in scoring position:** Arizona 4 (Tawa, Perdomo 3); St. Louis 1 (Herrera). **RISP:** Arizona 0 for 8; St. Louis 2 for 8. **DP:** Arizona 2 (Marte, Perdomo, Smith; Arenado, Smith); St. Louis 1 (Wetherholt, Winn, Burleson, Herrera).

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Kelly, L, 5-7	6.0	7	3	3	3	2	96	5.71
Clarke	1.2	0	0	0	1	2	27	2.16
Loáisiga	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	4	2.83

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pallante, W, 9-4	6.0	6	1	1	0	2	85	3.59
Stanek, H, 13	0.2	2	1	1	0	0	11	5.23
Romero, H, 18	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	9	3.97
Soriano, H, 10	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	5	3.03
O'Brien, S, 19-23	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	17	4.05

T: 2:30. **A:** 22,050 (44,494).

Rockies 3, Red Sox 2

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Gasper c	2	0	0	0	1	0	.255
Wong ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.256
Rafaela cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.281
Abreu rf	2	1	1	0	2	0	.276
Contreras 1b	4	1	1	1	0	0	.281
Duran lf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.202
Durbin 3b	3	0	2	1	1	1	.221
Yoshida dh	3	0	0	0	1	0	.242
Seigler 2b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.154
Monasterio ph-2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.229
Mayer ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.221
Totals	**30**	**2**	**5**	**2**	**6**	**2**	

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Castro 2b-3b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.275
Freeman rf	4	0	3	0	0	0	.280
Rumfield 1b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.279
Goodman c	4	1	1	0	0	1	.243
Carrigg cf-ss	4	1	1	0	0	1	.250
McCarthy lf-cf	4	0	1	3	0	1	.294
Fulford dh	2	0	1	0	0	1	.250
Johnston ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.308
Karros 3b	2	0	1	0	0	1	.248
Julien ph-2b	1	0	1	0	0	0	.227
Tovar ss	2	0	0	0	0	1	.211
Moniak ph-lf	1	0	1	0	0	0	.285
Totals	**33**	**3**	**12**	**3**	**0**	**9**	

Boston	**000 002 000**	**—**	**2**	**5**	**0**
Colorado	**000 000 003**	**—**	**3**	**12**	**0**

No outs when winning run scored. **LOB:** Boston 7, Colorado 6. **2B:** Durbin (16), Contreras (12), Mayer (9). **3B:** McCarthy (4). **RBIs:** Contreras (45), Durbin (30), McCarthy 3 (31). **SB:** Fulford (4). **RISP:** Boston 1 for 8; Colorado 4 for 5. **DP:** Boston 1 (Seigler, Mayer, Contreras); Colorado 2 (Castro, Rumfield, Castro).

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bennett	6.0	4	0	0	0	9	72	3.71
Guerrero, H, 4	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	8	3.65
Whitlock, H, 10	1.0	4	0	0	0	0	11	2.66
Chapman, L, 0-3, BS, 14-15	0.0	4	3	3	0	0	8	2.08

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Feltner	6.0	4	2	2	4	2	93	4.79
Bernardino	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	18	3.73
Vodnik, W, 2-2	2.0	0	0	0	2	0	30	7.06

T: 2:14. **A:** 26,910 (50,144).

Padres 1, Braves 0

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Dubón lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.262
Baldwin c	4	0	0	0	0	4	.276
Olson 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.271
Albies 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.280
Harris cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.305
Riley 3b	4	0	3	0	0	1	.219
White pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.221
Smith dh	3	0	0	0	1	0	.281
Yastrzemski rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.230
Mateo ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.269
Totals	**34**	**0**	**7**	**0**	**1**	**9**	

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Tatis rf-2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.284
Merrill cf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.214
Machado 3b	3	1	2	1	1	0	.185
Sheets dh	2	0	0	0	1	2	.228
Andujar ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	1	.251
France 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.245
Bogaerts ss	1	0	0	0	3	0	.228
Wagner 2b	2	0	1	0	1	0	.296
Song pr-2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.200
Bowen ph-rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.107
Durán c	3	0	0	0	0	2	.127
Taylor lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.340
Totals	**27**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**7**	**9**	

Atlanta	**000 000 000**	**—**	**0**	**7**	**0**
San Diego	**000 100 00x**	**—**	**1**	**4**	**1**

E: France (2). **LOB:** Atlanta 8, San Diego 9. **2B:** Machado (13). **HR:** Machado (14), off Holmes. **RBIs:** Machado (42). **SB:** Song (5), White (3). **Runners left in scoring position:** Atlanta 4 (Yastrzemski, Harris, Mateo 2); San Diego 4 (Durán 2, Bowen, Sheets). **RISP:** Atlanta 0 for 5; San Diego 0 for 8. **DP:** Atlanta 1 (Mateo, Albies, Olson).

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Holmes, L, 4-4	4.2	3	1	1	5	4	91	4.17
Fuentes	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	4	2.43
Karinchak	1.2	0	0	0	1	1	22	0.00
Dodd	1.1	1	0	0	1	3	39	1.93

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
King, W, 5-6	7.0	6	0	0	0	5	93	3.33
Morejon, H, 13	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	12	3.60
Miller, S, 21-21	1.0	1	0	0	1	2	20	0.84

T: 2:36. **A:** 42,572 (40,222).

NEW YORK POST ACTION

The POST Line

FIFA World Cup

Tuesday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
*Portugal	**$525-1250**	Uzbekistan
**England	**$450-1100**	Ghana
***Croatia	**$190-525**	Panama
****Colombia	**$185-500**	DR Congo

*Houston, **Foxborough, Mass. ***Toronto
****Guadalajara, Mexico

WNBA

Tuesday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
ACES	**1.5 (174.5)**	**Liberty**
	Wednesday	
Lynx	**5.5 (167.5)**	MYSTICS
	Tuesday, Jun. 30	
LIBERTY	**2.5 (172.5)**	Aces

MLB

Tuesday

American League

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Yankees	**-105-115**	TIGERS
BLUE JAYS	**OFF**	Astros
RAYS	**$159-194**	Royals
Guardians	**-105-115**	WHITE SOX
ANGELS	**OFF**	Orioles

National League

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
METS	**$119-143**	Cubs
Phillies	**$139-168**	NATIONALS
Brewers	**$100-120**	REDS
CARDINALS	**-102-118**	D'backs
PADRES	**OFF**	Braves

Interleague

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
MARLINS	**OFF**	Rangers
Mariners	**$100-120**	PIRATES
Dodgers	**$113-136**	TWINS
Red Sox	**$139-168**	ROCKIES
GIANTS	**$104-126**	Athletics

Home team in CAPS

SPORTS SHORTS

NBA: Wizards extend Young

Trae Young has agreed to a four-year extension with the Wizards, one that would be worth about $212 million if he picks up the final year of the deal, a person with knowledge of the agreement told the AP.

The fourth year of the agreement is at Young's option, said the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the Wizards had not revealed the terms. Young will make around $49 million this coming season.

NHL: Oilers re-sign Murphy

The Oilers re-signed defenseman **Connor Murphy** to a five-year, $20.5 million contract.

The team announced the deal roughly 24 hours after extending center **Jason Dickinson** for the next five seasons at $20 million. Murphy and Dickinson joined Edmonton in separate deals from Chicago as pending unrestricted free agents ahead of the trade deadline in early March.

● **Keith Tkachuk** is going into the Hockey Hall of Fame after waiting for more than a decade and a half since his playing career in the NHL ended. Tkachuk was elected to the Hall of Fame on Monday, less than 24 hours after his sons became teammates when **Brady** was traded from Ottawa to Florida, joining older brother **Matthew**.

The patriarch nicknamed "Walt" Tkachuk is part of a player class that includes center **Patrice Bergeron**, who won the Stanley Cup with Boston in 2011, and goaltenders **Carey Price** from Montreal and **Pekka Rinne** from Nashville.

MLB: De La Cruz set for return

Reds shortstop **Elly De La Cruz** is expected to be reinstated from the injured list Tuesday after missing 19 games with a strained right hamstring, manager **Terry Francona** said. De La Cruz — who has been sidelined since June 1 — took batting practice prior to Monday's series opener against Milwaukee.

● Dodgers outfielder **Kyle Tucker** was removed from Monday's 2-1 win over the Twins with low back spasms.

● In Washington, **Curtis Mead** and **Luis Garcia Jr.** homered, **Foster Griffin** pitched 7 $\frac{1}{3}$ strong innings and the Nationals beat the Phillies 4-1.

ETC.: Sooners win College WS

Oklahoma capitalized on North Carolina's uncharacteristic pitching struggles and got another clutch performance from **LJ Mercurius** out of the bullpen on its way to a 13-2 victory in the winner-take-all Game 3 of the College World Series finals, completing an improbable run to its first national championship since 1994. **Kyle Branch**, the No. 9 batter who came into the game 1-for-16 (.063) in the CWS, drove in six runs with a pair of singles and a home run.

● In Indianapolis, **Caitlin Clark** had 24 points and nine assists, **Kelsey Mitchell** scored 22 points, and the Fever overcame a 13-point, first-quarter deficit to beat the Mercury 86-77.

● **Linda Cohn** is taking one for the road. The longtime "SportsCenter" host — who has anchored more episodes of the flagship ESPN show than anyone — will officially retire from the network June 30 after making her final appearances during the 6 p.m., 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. editions. Cohn hosted her first "SportsCenter" on July 11, 1992, at 2 a.m. In 2016, she anchored her 5,000th episode.

● **Trevor Bauer's** stint in the U.S. has come to an end. The Long Island Ducks announced the pitcher signed with Diablos Rojos del México of the Mexican League.

TOP PLAY

Croatia to pester Panama with lots of room to spare

By MICHAEL LEBOFF

Croatia needs to find a way to beat Panama on Tuesday.

After losing 4-2 to England in their opening match, the Croatians have some ground to make up if they're going to get out of the group stage.

Panama, meanwhile, will have to pick itself up off the floor after a heartbreaking loss to Ghana in its first match. *Los Canaleros* conceded a goal in the 95th minute to fall 1-0.

With a matchup vs. England looming as its third group match, Panama needs to upset Croatia if it's going to have a hope of advancing to the round of 32.

Unfortunately, that kind of aggression is just not in the DNA of this team.

Panama has pulled some big results over the years, but this is your typical smash-and-grab team. *Los Canaleros* will make life difficult with a well-organized, physical defense, but this team offers very little going forward outside of the odd counterattack.

That strategy almost worked against Ghana, but the Black Stars aren't an offensive force by any stretch.

Croatia looked out of sorts against England, but it should be champing at the bit to pick apart a team that will need to come out of its shell eventually. Bet on an easy night at the office for the Croatians.

THE PLAY: Croatia -1.5 goals (+146, FanDuel).

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2026		*REC	'26 vs OPP		CAREER	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA		W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA
Yankees	Rodón (L)	—	3-2	3.50	4-3	0-0	0.00	6-6	2-0	17.0	3.71
Tigers	Mize (R)	(6:40pm)	2-4	2.58	3-7	0-0	0.00	2-1	0-2	15.1	2.93
Cubs	Cabrera (R)	—	4-4	5.21	8-5	1-0	4.50	3-2	1-2	13.1	10.13
Mets	Senga (R)	(7:10pm)	0-5	9.00	1-5	0-1	17.41	1-2	0-3	10.0	11.70
Mariners	Kirby (R)	—	5-7	4.10	7-8	0-0	0.00	2-1	0-3	16.0	5.63
Pirates	Keller (R)	(6:40pm)	5-4	4.92	8-7	0-0	0.00	1-1	0-2	14.0	7.71
Rangers	Quantrill (R)	—	3-0	3.68	0-0	0-0	0.00	0-0	*—	—	—
Marlins	Alcantara (R)	(6:40pm)	7-4	4.18	10-6	0-0	0.00	0-1	3-0	21.0	2.57
Dodgers	Wrobleski (L)	—	8-2	2.72	9-3	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-0	16.2	2.16
Twins	Ryan (R)	(7:40pm)	5-3	2.99	9-7	0-0	0.00	0-1	1-0	17.0	2.12
Red Sox	Gray (R)	—	8-1	3.12	9-4	0-0	0.00	0-1	2-0	19.1	3.26
Rockies	Sullivan (L)	(8:40pm)	0-1	10.29	0-2	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-1	7.0	10.29
Athletics	Civale (R)	—	5-3	4.91	6-6	1-0	3.60	4-1	0-2	12.0	13.50
Giants	Ray (L)	(9:45pm)	5-6	4.07	8-6	0-0	0.00	2-3	1-0	14.2	3.68
Astros	Lambert (R)	—	6-4	3.23	6-5	0-0	0.00	0-0	2-0	18.2	1.93
Blue Jays	Bieber (R)	(4:07pm)	*0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	0.00	1-1	*—	—	—
Royals	Avila (R)	—	2-3	5.50	3-2	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	11.1	7.94
Rays	McClanahan (L)	(6:40pm)	6-4	3.32	8-6	0-0	0.00	1-0	0-2	12.2	7.11
Indians	Messick (L)	—	7-3	2.70	10-5	1-0	1.50	1-0	1-2	17.1	4.67
White Sox	Burke (R)	(7:40pm)	4-4	3.89	3-8	0-2	5.56	0-2	0-1	16.1	3.86
Orioles	Baz (R)	—	4-7	4.04	5-10	0-0	4.91	0-0	1-2	17.2	3.06
Angels	Johnson (R)	(9:38pm)	0-2	12.83	0-2	0-0	0.00	0-0	**0-1	3.0	16.20
Phillies	Luzardo (L)	—	6-4	4.20	9-6	0-0	0.00	2-4	2-0	18.2	3.86
Nationals	Littell (R)	(6:45pm)	6-6	5.45	6-5	0-1	5.40	1-1	1-2	11.2	7.71
Brewers	Sproat (R)	—	1-4	5.94	7-5	0-1	4.50	0-1	0-0	14.2	4.91
Reds	Lodolo (L)	(7:10pm)	2-2	6.12	2-6	0-1	1.17	1-1	0-1	15.0	7.80
D'backs	Rodriguez (L)	—	6-2	2.44	11-4	0-0	0.00	1-0	1-1	16.0	3.38
Cardinals	Leahy (R)	(7:45pm)	5-4	4.63	6-8	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-1	15.0	6.00
Braves	Ritchie (R)	—	1-2	4.54	3-3	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-2	13.1	7.43
Padres	TBD	(9:40pm)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

*** REC:** Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started. *No starts in '26. **Only one start in 2026 thus far.

STITCHES

Go, Canada! Take Biebs, Jays

He's baaack! No, not Francisco Lindor; not Aaron Judge; not Stephen Colbert.

Shane Bieber makes his 2026 debut after pitching all of nine games over the past two years. The Blue Jay has spent more time on the shelf than a jar of expired mayonnaise at the corner bodega. The Astros invade Toronto. Houston's Peter Lambert has pitched well. He's 2-0 in his past three starts, allowing just four runs over those 18 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings. Everybody's talking about Lambert, Lambert, Lambert. All we are saaaying is give Biebs a chance. Play $50 on the Blue Jays.

+$

The next time Framber Valdez pitches a good game for us will be the first time.

Maybe it was Monday night. We went with Valdez and the Tigers (+109). Gerrit Cole threw for the visiting Yankees. Riding another high. Winning streak had us at +64 jobachamberlains.

stitches@nypost.com

Home Team Lineups

HOME AWAY

	TODAY June 23	WED June 24	THU June 25	FRI June 26	SAT June 27
	Detroit 6:40 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Detroit 6:40 Prime Video 660 AM 101.9 FM	Boston 7:10 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Boston 7:10 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Boston 1:10 ABC 660 AM 101.9 FM
	Cubs 7:10 SNY 880 AM	Cubs 7:10 PIX11 880 AM	Cubs 7:10 SNY 880 AM	Philadelphia 7:10 PIX11 880 AM	Philadelphia 4:10 SNY 880 AM
	Las Vegas 10:00 My9 USA	NO GAME	Seattle 10:00 My9	NO GAME	NO GAME

Wednesday, July 22	Wednesday, July 22	Friday
FIFA World Cup Break until July 22	FIFA World Cup Break until July 22	KC Current 8:00 Prime Video

Today's Sports on the Air

MLB BASEBALL		
Noon	2026 MLB Scouting Combine	MLBN
5 p.m.	Astros at Blue Jays (joined in progress)	MLBN
6:40 p.m.	Yankees at Tigers	YES, 660 AM, 101.9 FM
7:10 p.m.	Cubs at Mets	SNY, 880 AM
7:30 p.m.	Dodgers at Twins	TBS
9:30 p.m.	Athletics at San Francisco	MLBN
NBA BASKETBALL		
8 p.m.	2026 NBA Draft: 1st Round	ABC, ESPN, NBATV
WNBA BASKETBALL		
10 p.m.	Liberty at Aces	USA
MEN'S SOCCER: FIFA WORLD CUP		
1 p.m.	Group Stage: Portugal vs. Uzbekistan	Fox, Telemundo
4 p.m.	Group Stage: England vs. Ghana	Fox, Telemundo
7 p.m.	Group Stage: Panama vs. Croatia	Fox, Telemundo
10 p.m.	Group Stage: Colombia vs. Congo DR	FS1, Telemundo
TENNIS		
6 a.m.	ATP/WTA Eastbourne, Early Rounds	Tennis
6 a.m.	WTA Bad Homburg, Early Rounds	Tennis
6 a.m.	ATP Mallorca, Early Rounds	Tennis
5 a.m. (Wed.)	ATP/WTA Eastbourne, Early Rounds	Tennis
5 a.m. (Wed.)	WTA Bad Homburg, Early Rounds	Tennis
5 a.m. (Wed.)	ATP Mallorca, Early Rounds	Tennis
SOFTBALL		
7 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Bandits at Volts	ESPNU
9 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Spark at Talons	CBSSN

NBA DRAFT

Getty Images

AJ Dybantsa

No. 1 pick

NAME	ODDS
AJ Dybantsa	-600
Darryn Peterson	+450
Cameron Boozer	40/1

No. 2 pick

NAME	ODDS
Darryn Peterson	-210
Cameron Boozer	+275
AJ Dybantsa	+500
Caleb Wilson	50/1

No. 3 pick

NAME	ODDS
Cameron Boozer	-235
Darryn Peterson	+300
Caleb Wilson	+800
AJ Dybantsa	18/1

No. 4 pick

NAME	ODDS
Caleb Wilson	-1000
Cameron Boozer	+800
Darius Acuff Jr.	30/1
Darryn Peterson	30/1

No. 5 pick

NAME	ODDS
Keaton Wagler	+150
Mikel Brown Jr.	+225
Darius Acuff Jr.	+450
Brayden Burries	+700

No. 6 pick

NAME	ODDS
Mikel Brown Jr.	+175
Darius Acuff Jr.	+225
Keaton Wagler	+375
Nate Ament	+750
Kingston Flemings	12/1

ODDS & ENDS

WORLD CUP

Tuesday

Portugal vs. Uzbekistan

3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
Portugal	-600
Draw	+600
Uzbekistan	15/1
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	-176
Under 2.5	+142
ANYTIME GOAL SCORER	**ODDS**
Cristiano Ronaldo (POR)	-165
Rafael Leão (POR)	+140
Bruno Fernandes (POR)	+160
Pedro Neto (POR)	+180
Francisco Conceição (POR)	+190
Bernardo Silva (POR)	+230
João Neves (POR)	+280

England vs. Ghana

3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
England	-500
Draw	+550
Ghana	13/1
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	-154
Under 2.5	+126
ANYTIME GOAL SCORER	**ODDS**
Harry Kane (ENG)	-140
Marcus Rashford (ENG)	+180
Bukayo Saka (ENG)	+190
Noni Madueke (ENG)	+195
Anthony Gordon (ENG)	+195
Jude Bellingham (ENG)	+195
Morgan Rogers (ENG)	+230

Panama vs. Croatia

3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
Panama	+550
Draw	+320
Croatia	-195
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	-124
Under 2.5	+102
ANYTIME GOAL SCORER	**ODDS**
Petar Musa (CRO)	+140
Ivan Perišic (CRO)	+210
Marco Pašalic (CRO)	+260
Cecilio Waterman (PAN)	+290
Martin Baturina (CRO)	+300
Luka Modric (CRO)	+300

Colombia vs. Congo

3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
Colombia	-200
Draw	+310
Congo	+600
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	+126
Under 2.5	-154
ANYTIME GOAL SCORER	**ODDS**
Luis Díaz (COL)	+175
Luis Suárez (COL)	+175
James Rodríguez (COL)	+220
Jhon Arias (COL)	+270
Yoane Wissa (CGO)	+450
Cédric Bakambu (CGO)	+500

BET SMART

Get Razor'-focused on Acuff to Nets at 6

By MICHAEL CALABRESE

The last time we saw Darius Acuff Jr., he was putting the final touches on one of the best postseason scoring runs in college basketball history. Across six games for Arkansas — three in the SEC tournament and three during March Madness — Acuff averaged 29.8 points on 45 percent shooting from 3-point range to go with 6.5 assists and 3.3 rebounds.

He was the epitome of a three-level scorer during his breakout freshman season in Fayetteville.

We all just witnessed a 6-foot-2 guard carry a team to an NBA championship. Is Acuff really a Jalen Brunson clone? And if so, how many teams can afford to pass on him inside the top 10 of Tuesday night's NBA draft?

Recommendation: Darius Acuff Jr. exact draft location (No. 6 at +240).

The first three picks are all but locked up. AJ Dybantsa, Darryn Peterson and Cameron Boozer all will be sporting their official NBA hats within the first 20 minutes.

After that, things start to get interesting because this draft is loaded with high-upside, low-film stars.

North Carolina's Caleb Wilson missed the Tar Heels' final nine games after breaking his right thumb during a practice. The double-double machine ended his brief college career with just a single game against a top 10 opponent. He seems to be a strong fit for a Chicago front office that just hired the former Trail Blazers interim head coach Tiago Splitter to be its head coach. Wilson took only one predraft visit, and it was with Chicago. The writing is on the wall here; he'll come off the board fourth overall.

That leaves us with a trio of guards to go 5-6-7 in this draft. Keaton Wagler has been linked to the Clippers in the past few weeks for his skill set and fit. Darius Garland remains the Clippers point guard, which means they'll likely target a true combo guard.

Wagler has the shooting and playmaking ability to transition to a full-time two-guard in the pros. Like Wilson, his travel schedule paints a picture. Wagler met with only the Bulls and the Clippers, canceling trips to see the Nets and Kings. That indicates to me that Wagler and his agency, ProMondo Sports, are confident he's a top five pick.

That leaves us with Acuff and Mikel Brown Jr. at No. 6 overall. Brown gave front offices even less to work with than did Wilson after suiting up for just 21 games for Louisville. His lower back issues have the potential to give teams that reside inside the top 10 pause.

What's interesting about the Nets' selection at No. 6 is that they've been linked to Brown, Acuff and Nate Ament, a versatile big out of Tennessee. The Nets aren't just keeping a longer wish list in the event that teams ahead of them steal their top options. They also have major spending power this season with a top five cap space situation on their books. It appears they're already earmarking some of those funds.

The Nets reportedly are expected to offer Austin Reaves a four-year, $178.5 million contract when free agency begins on June 30. They finished dead last in scoring in the NBA, so the idea of pairing Reaves with a proven volume scorer such as Acuff could be a dream overnight fix.

The final piece of this puzzle is the rumor mill. No matter what bet you place on the NBA draft, you need to withstand the urge to flip-flop based on gossip. The biggest piece of gossip surrounding Acuff is that his camp prefers a marriage with Sacramento. On one hand, he'd be the go-to player for the dysfunctional Kings from Day 1; on the other hand, this is a franchise that has mismanaged assets continually.

My read is that Acuff's people merely are posturing to create contract negotiation and roster construction leverage. His team will want the maximum dollar figure and assurances that he will not be joining a roster flush with ball handlers acquired via free agency.

In the end, I expect to see Acuff in a Nets jersey at Barclays Center next season.

Getty Images

Darius Acuff Jr.

STILL NOT RIGHT

Ionescu's late benching latest sign of Liberty star's slow start to season

By MADELINE KENNEY

DOESN'T SIT WELL: Sabrina Ionescu had only two points on 1-for-3 shooting in Sunday's loss to the Sparks before being benched in crunch time as her struggles dragged on. Getty Images

LOS ANGELES — Sabrina Ionescu checked out of Sunday's game with 3:42 left in the fourth quarter.

She never returned to the floor.

Ionescu watched the rest of crunch time from the bench as Chris DeMarco put rookie Pauline Astier in with the starters instead of her.

The Liberty ultimately fell 98-97 in a game they had no business losing.

But this isn't about the Liberty's ugly 17-point collapse. It's about Ionescu, who hasn't looked like herself since she returned last week from a lengthy absence due to back soreness.

In a conversation with The Post after the game, Ionescu brushed off any concern that she's still dealing with discomfort.

"I'd say the last few games, I felt really good in terms of my health and how my body feels," Ionescu said. "But yeah, I mean, I feel good, I feel like myself, so I think whatever that looks like out there, you know, I'm fine with as long as we win, and maybe not tonight."

Ionescu didn't take a single shot in the first half. She uncharacteristically missed an uncontested layup early in the third quarter.

Ionescu finished with two points on 1-for-3 shooting, three rebounds, two assists and two turnovers. That was Ionescu's fewest field goal attempts since June 24, 2021, during her second season in the league.

New York was outscored by seven points when Ionescu was on the floor.

Ionescu has reached 10 points only once in her four games after she was sidelined for three weeks with a back issue.

DeMarco acknowledged that Ionescu's late-game benching was not due to injury. But he's giving Ionescu grace as she gets her sea legs back.

"Getting her back to where she's comfortable out there," DeMarco said. "And it's gonna take time, you know. I thought she had good moments and yeah, it's just gonna take time."

Ionescu didn't think she'd have a big learning curve upon returning to the Liberty rotation. She said the team installed most of its offensive and defensive principles in training camp. She had done her best to stay present and aware of any changes the team made during her absence — first with a foot injury, then with back soreness.

But Ionescu's return has been far from seamless.

She said Sunday she was reading what the game gives her and "not forcing anything."

"Obviously, we have so much offensive power," Ionescu said. "For me, it's just not forcing … staying aggressive but just finding ways to get the ball moving. And when we're scoring the way that we are, I obviously don't need to force shots and look for it.

"And I think it's also different, being the only point guard out there with bigs. My job is to kind of facilitate and get the ball kind of in the right people's hands and so in turn I got to continue to find ways to try to get open and get some good looks."

Some of this, though, is on DeMarco to help Ionescu help herself.

Ionescu was a big reason the Liberty ultimately beat the Sky last week. She didn't have it going in the first half but hit a timely 3 late and made the game-winning basket.

But even after that game, Jonquel Jones alluded to the fact that Ionescu and the team know it'll take time for Ionescu to fully find her flow in this system.

"This isn't like the past, where it's a system that she's ran for a few years and she's stepping into something that she's really familiar with," Jones said. "It's a lot of new circumstances right now with new teammates, new coach, new offense and so things are going to take a little bit of time to materialize but all you can ask for somebody is to just stick with it and have that confidence and to do what she did at the end of the game, just ultimate confidence."

mkenney@nypost.com

Libs get their biggest challenge yet in surging Aces

By MADELINE KENNEY

LOS ANGELES — The Liberty and Las Vegas Aces' rivalry seems due for a sequel.

The first chapter is scheduled for Tuesday when the two teams meet for the first time this season.

It'll be a prelude to next week's Commissioner's Cup final, which is being played at Barclays Center for the first time.

Tuesday
LIBERTY AT ACES
10 p.m.
My9,
USA

But before the Liberty can even think about potentially winning a large share of the $500,000 prize pool, they have plenty of work to do.

The 12-4 Aces are New York's biggest challenge yet, and the Liberty are coming off their worst loss of the season.

Coach Chris DeMarco has one main thing he's looking for in his team on its four-game West Coast trip.

"The biggest thing is just consistency, putting together 40-minute games, offensively and defensively," DeMarco said before Sunday's loss to the Sparks. "I just want consistency — not just from a game plan standpoint but the effort standpoint."

DeMarco didn't get his wish in the Liberty's blood-boiling 98-97 setback to Los Angeles to start this road trip.

It was the tale of two halves for the Liberty. They led by as many as 17 points in the third quarter before suffering a stunning collapse.

It wasn't the first time the Liberty blew a double-digit lead.

The question now is how the Liberty will respond with their rival on deck. Will they bounce back? Or will they continue to flounder?

➤ **Betnijah Laney-Hamilton** missed two consecutive games after having an injection in her surgically repaired knee.

She was cleared to play Sunday but rode the pine anyway.

Coach **Chris DeMarco** said Laney-Hamilton didn't play as part of the team's "reintegration" plan. He didn't divulge details.

It hasn't been an easy season for Laney-Hamilton, who is in a prove-it year after signing a one-year, $400,000 deal with New York.

She stepped away from the team early on for "personal reasons." Upon her return, she was moved to the bench.

Laney-Hamilton has averaged 6.5 points, 1.9 rebounds and 1.8 assists in 11 games this season.

Yonkers Entries

Post time: 6:45 p.m.

FIRST: 1 Mile $18,000 FM20000CLM; PACE

1	Spirit Of Pearl A	(JBongiorno)	8-4-1	4-1
2	Maybemabel	(JStratton)	2-5-1	2-1
3	Sweet Sandy	(JMarohn)	7-4-1	20-1
4	Jive Dancing A	(CKelly)	6-4-2	7-2
5	Charming Vixen	(DDube)	4-4-1	20-1
6	Two Bean Dream	(MKakaley)	1-7-4	10-1
7	Th Sandra Dee	(BHolland)	1-1-4	5-2
8	Tricky Wicky	(ASiegelman)	8-4-6	20-1

SECOND: 1 Mile $23,000 NW16041L5; PACE

1	PanettoneHanover	(JBongrn)	6-1-5	2-1
2	Kwick Sand A	(JStratton)	1-9-3	4-1
3	Gorgeous Big Guy	(TButer)	8-1-4	5-2
4	Zebs Krafty	(ASiegelman)	2-1-1	3-1
5	None Bettor A	(MKakaley)	2-3-2	12-1
6	ThenuCameAlongA	(BHollnd)	3-2-4	8-1

THIRD: 1 Mile $21,000 HGW2BN4PM; PACE

1	Joel And The Jets	(CKelly)	6-5-2	9-2
2	JohnnyWiggles	(ASiegelman)	2-4-2	6-1
3	Quickaway	(JMarohn)	3-2-7	6-1
4	AdamCheesehead	(MKakley)	3-2-1	5-2
5	Alabama Lucky	(BHolland)	2-4-1	7-2
6	Bettor's Desire	(JStratton)	3-5-4	8-1
7	All My Lovin	(JBongiorno)	6-1-4	10-1
8	Hurricane Express	(TButer)	5-7-5	15-1

FOURTH: 1 Mile $24,000 FM50000CLM; PACE

1	Petrol Queen	(CKelly)	8-3-2	6-1
2	Alwaysbpuffing Ir	(TButer)	6-5-4	4-1
3	Maddie's Delite	(BHolland)	3-1-1	3-2
4	Splash Of Pink	(DDube)	3-6-4	20-1
5	Laurie Lee	(JMarohn)	4-4-6	6-1
6	Waitforever N	(JBongiorno)	2-1-4	4-1
7	Win With Lynnly	(MKakaley)	5-5-2	20-1
8	Over Ice	(JStratton)	7-3-5	20-1

FIFTH: 1 Mile $19,000 CHGNW2PM; PACE

1	Aries Blue Chip	(JBongiorno)	1-5-6	9-2
2	Whiskey Venom	(BHolland)	3-6-8	9-2
3	All Inittowinit	(TButer)	3-7-3	8-1
4	Art In Heaven	(CKelly)	4-5-4	5-2
5	Moonshiner N	(MKakaley)	1-4-X	6-1
6	Farkle	(TMerton)	4-8-3	20-1
7	Flying Major Art N	(JMarohn)	1-1-1	9-2
8	Half PastMidnight	(JStratton)	1-3-9	8-1

SIXTH: 1 Mile $21,000 NW10791L5; PACE

1	T H Tyson	(JMarohn)	5-2-6	5-2
2	Levine	(PLachance)	6-2-6	20-1
3	WattsupSunshineA	(BHollnd)	5-4-6	6-1
4	Moment Is Here	(TButer)	3-4-2	2-1
5	SweethomealabmN	(JStrttn)	7-8-5	9-2
6	The Greek Freak	(MKakaley)	2-4-3	4-1
7	Gingras Beach	(CKelly)	3-2-3	20-1
8	Hckfrmfrenchlck	(RSchntker)	1-4-8	20-1

SEVENTH: 1 Mile $28,000 NW23101L5; PACE

1	Churchviewfrnkllr	(PLchnce)	3-2-1	6-1
2	Hemsworth N	(ASiegelman)	2-3-5	5-2
3	Copperfield	(CKelly)	5-2-3	4-1
4	Forward Flash	(JStratton)	1-1-1	2-1
5	Evileye Fleegle	(TButer)	1-4-4	6-1
6	Blue Lou	(MKakaley)	4-2-6	10-1
7	Mysweetboymax	(DDube)	2-2-1	20-1

EIGHTH: 1 Mile $23,000 NW15000L5; PACE

1	Laser Speed	(BHolland)	5-5-1	3-1
2	Th Colby	(TButer)	3-3-1	8-5
3	Bettor Not	(DDube)	4-5-2	15-1
4	Windsun Ricky	(PLachance)	2-5-2	20-1
5	Jett Star N	(ASiegelman)	6-3-1	6-1
6	ImaPerfectChoice	(MKakley)	1-2-3	5-2
7	Speaker Of Peace	(CKelly)	3-6-7	15-1

NINTH: 1 Mile $19,000 FM25000CLM; PACE

1	Twin B Echo	(ASiegelman)	1-2-2	9-5
2	Survivin Fire	(JMarohn)	6-6-9	6-1
3	Big City Daisy	(BHolland)	3-2-7	3-1
4	Fight Not Flight	(MKakaley)	5-6-7	8-1
5	Distant Lover	(CKelly)	7-5-7	15-1
6	Ultimate Speed	(TButer)	3-2-3	9-2
7	Who's Perfect	(JStratton)	5-1-3	20-1
8	MsFrancesAssisi	(JBongiorn)	4-1-5	15-1

Yonkers Results

FIRST-1-mile pace; 15000clm; purse $15,000

TRACK: CONDITION-GD OFF: 6:52 TIME-27.2; 56.2; 1:24.2; 1:55.3

1	FullSupport(BHollnd)	9.94	3.32	2.56
6	Rose RunAstro(JBongiorno)		4.28	3.50
5	Two Faced (C Kelly)			3.36

• Exacta (1/6) $35.77 • Triple (1/6/5) $161.91 • $.10 Superfecta (1/6/5/4) $32.59

SECOND-1-mile pace; 3-6yo30clm; purse $20,000

TRACK: CONDITION-GD OFF: 7:10 TIME-28.1; 57.1; 1:25.3; 1:54.1

3	TopvllSmbch(BHllnd)	3.24	2.10	2.14
1	Thong Control (T Buter)		2.14	2.28
5	Rayray (J Marohn)			8.68

• Exacta (3/1) $3.42 • Triple (3/1/5) $20.87 • $.10 Superfecta (3/1/5/7) $13.20 • Daily double (1/3) $9.56

THIRD-1-mile pace; invitation; purse $43,000

TRACK: CONDITION-GD OFF: 7:29 TIME-26.2; 55.4; 1:24.0; 1:51.1

2	SweetBeachLife(MKakaley)		3.40	2.10
5	Mossdale Ben N (J Marohn)			2.10
4	Captinhammerhead A (B Holland)			2.10

• Exacta (2/5) $3.33 • Triple (2/5/4) $4.14

Scr: Dandy Ideal.

FOURTH-1-mile pace; nw30000l5; purse $33,000

TRACK: CONDITION-GD OFF: 7:47 TIME-27.1; 55.4; 1:23.0; 1:51.2

4	Downbythwtr(JStrttn)	4.68	2.80	2.10
1	Sterling Choice (C Kelly)		2.78	2.10
6	Captain Moore A (T Buter)			2.48

• Exacta (4/1) $5.18 • Triple (4/1/6) $13.44 • $.10 Superfecta (4/1/6/5) $10.92 • $1 Pick 3 (3/1,2/4) $7.38 • $1 Pick 4 (1/3/1,2/4) $37.35

FIFTH-1-mile pace; 40000clm; purse $22,000

TRACK: CONDITION-GD OFF: 8:08 TIME-27.2; 56.2; 1:24.0; 1:52.2

2	BettorBySesde(TButr)	15.78	6.96	4.08
5	Yorokobi N (J Marohn)		20.26	8.22
4	Lyrical Genius A (M Kakaley)			4.06

• Exacta (2/5) $74.31 • Triple (2/5/4) $388.61 • $.10 Superfecta (2/5/4/3) $115.35 • $1 Pick 3 (2/4/2) $26.41

SIXTH-1-mile pace; nw15000l5; purse $23,000

TRACK: CONDITION-GD OFF: 8:27 TIME-27.4; 57.0; 1:24.3; 1:52.3

5	EscpeToAmerc(CKlly)	3.02	2.34	2.10
3	AmercnDelerN(JBongorno)		3.98	3.24
2	Bondi Lockdown A (A Siegelman)			2.82

• Exacta (5/3) $6.19 • Triple (5/3/2) $15.27 • $.10 Superfecta (5/3/2/6) $5.84 • $1 Pick 3 (4/2/5) $26.07

SEVENTH-1-mile pace; 30000clm; purse $20,000

TRACK: CONDITION-GD OFF: 8:46 TIME-27.4; 57.0; 1:25.1; 1:53.4

6	KomodoBch(JBongrn)	7.22	3.72	2.86
1	HevenOnHghN(ASegelmn)		4.18	2.78
3	Ever Hoping A (M Kakaley)			3.00

• Exacta (6/1) $14.63 • Triple (6/1/3) $34.07 • $.10 Superfecta (6/1/3/4) $25.76

EIGHTH-1-mile pace; 50000clm; purse $24,000

TRACK: CONDITION-GD OFF: 9:08 TIME-27.3; 56.3; 1:24.1; 1:52.1

2	KeyngTcoA(JStrtton)	4.90	2.38	2.10
3	Invisible N (C Kelly)		3.48	2.52
1	Rockin Jukebox (J Bongiorno)			2.12

• Exacta (2/3) $5.12 • Triple (2/3/1) $12.30 • $.10 Superfecta (2/3/1/4) $3.45 • $1 Pick 3 (5/6/2,5,6) $6.52

Scr: Thirsty Thursday, Odds On Capitalism.

NINTH-1-mile pace; nw20000l5; purse $28,000

TRACK: CONDITION-GD OFF: 9:26 TIME-27.0; 55.3; 1:23.2; 1:52.3

1	JmpngjckmcN(JStrttn)	17.74	6.60	4.38
3	MyUltmteByronA(ASglmn)		8.22	5.16
7	Backstreet Shadow (M Kakaley)			5.76

• Exacta (1/3) $57.56 • Triple (1/3/7) $401.87 • $.10 Superfecta (1/3/7/4) $217.28 • $1 Pick 5 (2/5/6/2,5,6/1) $950.11

Scr: Hurrikane Cheyenne.

TENTH-1-mile pace; nw8401l5; purse $19,000

TRACK: CONDITION-GD OFF: 9:46 TIME-27.4; 57.0; 1:24.2; 1:52.4

4	TheIdlDncrA(JMrohn)	6.90	3.16	2.10
3	HammerngHank(BHolland)		2.48	2.10
2	Finvarra A (T Buter)			2.52

• Exacta (4/3) $7.81 • Triple (4/3/2) $30.23 • $.10 Superfecta (4/3/2/6) $13.62 • Late double (1/4) $41.84 • $1 Pick 3 (2/1/4) $63.66 • $1 Pick 4 (6/2,5,6/1/4) $387.34

Total Handle-$310,472.

PGA Tour Schedule)

May 7-10 — Truist Championship (Kristoffer Reitan)
May 7-10 — ONEflight Myrtle Beach Classic (Brandt Snedeker)
May 14-17 — PGA Championship (Aaron Rai)
May 21-24 — THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson (Wyndham Clark)
May 28-31 — Charles Schwab Challenge (Russell Henley)
June 4-7 — the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday (J.T. Poston)
June 11-14 — RBC Canadian Open (Bud Cauley)
June 18-21 — U.S. Open (Wyndham Clark)
June 25-28 — Travelers Championship, Cromwell, Conn.
July 2-5 — John Deere Classic, Silvis, Ill.
July 9-12 — Genesis Scottish Open, North Berwick, United Kingdom
July 9-12 — ISCO Championship, Louisville, Ky.
July 16-19 — The Open Championship, Southport, United Kingdom

FIFA World Cup

GROUP A

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Mexico	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
South Korea	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Czechia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
South Africa	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

GROUP A
Thursday, June 11
Mexico 2, South Africa 0
South Korea 2, Czechia 1
Thursday, June 18
Czechia 1, South Africa 1
Mexico 1, South Korea 0
Wednesday, June 24
Czechia vs. Mexico, 9pm
South Africa vs. South Korea, 9pm

GROUP B

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Canada	2	1	1	0	7	1	4
Switzerland	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
Bosnia-Herzegovina	2	0	1	1	2	5	1
Qatar	1	0	1	1	1	7	1

GROUP B
Friday, June 12
Canada 1, Bosnia-Herzegovina 1
Saturday, June 13
Qatar 1, Switzerland 1
Thursday, June 18
Switzerland 4, Bosnia-Herzegovina 1
Canada 6, Qatar 0
Wednesday, June 24
Switzerland vs. Canada, 3pm
Bosnia-Herzegovina vs. Qatar, 3pm

GROUP C

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Brazil	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Morocco	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Scotland	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Haiti	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

GROUP C
Saturday, June 13
Brazil 1, Morocco 1
Scotland 1, Haiti 0
Friday, June 19
Morocco 1, Scotland 0
Brazil 3, Haiti 0
Wednesday, June 24
Scotland vs. Brazil, 6pm
Morocco vs. Haiti, 6pm

GROUP D

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-United States	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**6**	**1**	**6**
Australia	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Paraguay	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Turkey	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

GROUP D
Friday, June 12
United States 4, Paraguay 1
Sunday, June 14
Australia 2, Turkey 0
Friday, June 19
United States 2, Australia 0
Paraguay 1, Turkey 0
Thursday
Turkey vs. **United States,** 10pm
Paraguay vs. Australia, 10pm

GROUP E

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Germany	2	2	0	0	9	2	6
Ivory Coast	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Ecuador	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Curacao	2	0	1	1	1	7	1

GROUP E
Sunday, June 14
Germany 7, Curacao 1
Ivory Coast 1, Ecuador 0
Saturday
Germany 2, Ivory Coast 1
Ecuador 0, Curacao 0
Thursday
Ecuador vs. Germany, 4pm
Curacao vs. Ivory Coast, 4pm

GROUP F

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Netherlands	2	1	1	0	7	3	4
Japan	2	1	1	0	6	2	4
Sweden	2	1	0	1	6	6	3
Tunisia	2	0	0	2	1	9	0

GROUP F
Sunday, June 14
Netherlands 2, Japan 2
Sweden 5, Tunisia 1
Saturday
Netherlands 5, Sweden 1
Sunday
Japan 4, Tunisia 0
Tunisia vs. Netherlands, 7pm
Japan vs. Sweden, 7pm

GROUP G

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Egypt	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Iran	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Belgium	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
New Zealand	2	0	1	1	3	5	1

GROUP G
Monday, June 15
Belgium 1, Egypt 1
Iran 2, New Zealand 2
Sunday, June 21
Belgium 0, Iran 0
Egypt 3, New Zealand 1
Friday, June 26
New Zealand vs. Belgium, 11pm
Egypt vs. Iran, 11pm

GROUP H

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Spain	2	1	1	0	4	0	4
Uruguay	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Cape Verde	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Saudi Arabia	2	0	1	1	1	5	1

GROUP H
Monday, June 15
Spain 0, Cape Verde 0
Saudi Arabia 1, Uruguay 1
Sunday, June 21
Spain 4, Saudi Arabia 0
Uruguay 2, Cape Verde 2
Friday
Uruguay 2, Spain 2
Cape Verde vs. Saudi Arabia, 8pm

GROUP I

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
y-Norway	2	2	0	0	7	3	6
y-France	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Senegal	2	0	0	2	3	6	0
Iraq	2	0	0	2	1	7	0

GROUP I
Tuesday, June 16
France 3, Senegal 1
Iraq 1, Norway 4
Monday
France 3, Iraq 0
Norway 3, Senegal 2
Friday
Norway vs. France, 3pm
Senegal vs. Iraq, 3pm

GROUP J

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Argentina	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Austria	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Algeria	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Jordan	2	0	0	2	2	5	0

GROUP J
Tuesday, June 16
Argentina 3, Algeria 0
Wednesday, June 17
Austria 3, Jordan 1
Monday
Argentina 2, Austria 0
Algeria 2, Jordan 1
Saturday, June 27
Jordan vs. Argentina, 10pm
Algeria vs. Austria, 10pm

GROUP K

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Colombia	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Congo	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Portugal	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Uzbekistan	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

GROUP K
Wednesday, June 17
Portugal 1, Congo 1
Uzbekistan 1, Colombia 3
Tuesday
Portugal vs. Uzbekistan, 1pm
Colombia vs. Congo, 10pm
Saturday, June 27
Colombia vs. Portugal, 7:30pm
Congo vs. Uzbekistan, 7:30pm

GROUP L

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
England	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Ghana	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Panama	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Croatia	1	0	0	1	2	4	0

GROUP L
Wednesday, June 17
England 4, Croatia 2
Ghana 1, Panama 0
Tuesday
England vs. Ghana, 4pm
Panama vs. Croatia, 7pm
Saturday, June 27
Panama vs. England, 5pm
Croatia vs. Ghana, 5pm

x-Clinched group, y-advances to the rd. of 32

Cops probing Jets QB Smith over alleged battery case

By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

Police in Davie, Florida, are reversing course after originally saying that an investigation into Geno Smith over an alleged battery had been closed, now saying that it is "being further investigated."

GENO SMITH

Officers from the Davie Police Department had been called to the Jets quarterback's Florida home around 4:40 p.m. Sunday for the alleged battery, but a spokesperson could not provide further details about the incident. The spokesperson initially told The Post's Ed Lewis that "no one was taken into custody on scene" and the investigation had been closed.

Monday evening, however, a spokesperson for the department told multiple outlets that the incident was actually under investigation.

"We were informed earlier this evening, that during review, it was determined that this case is being further investigated by a detective," the spokesperson said, according to USA Today. "It is active and we cannot release any additional information at this time."

The outlet also reported that the spokesperson could not explain why the Davie Police Department changed course or who had made the call to further investigate the alleged incident.

A police report from the incident will be made available when the detectives close the investigation and it is approved for release, according to USA Today.

The alleged incident first came to light after a woman named Kristen made claims in videos on her Instagram Story that Smith had laid hands on her, writing in a caption over an 80-plus-second video that the NFL QB had "beat my ass."

"Today is the DAY!" the caption read. "GENO SMITH beat my ass cause he HATES taking care of his special needs kid and can't be left alone with him because he'd rather watch s*x online and play Call of Duty."

The woman in the video says on camera that Smith "ran outside and attacked me" and, following an argument in the driveway, she ran down toward the street screaming for help.

She also claimed that Smith had broken her computer, thrown her purses out and stolen money out of her car.

The woman also showed a short snippet of Smith talking with uniformed police officers.

Smith has not publicly commented on the allegations, and the Jets did not have a comment when reached by The California Post.

The mother of Smith's son, Seven, did take to social media to defend the quarterback Sunday.

In Instagram Stories of her own, she pushed back on the comments by Kristen, saying that Smith "is and always has been more than capable of taking care of his son."

"Let's kill that narrative. Don't get on the internet bringing my son into your web of dysfunction," she also wrote.

Smith became a member of the Jets earlier this offseason when he was traded by the Raiders to Gang Green, returning to the organization he played for from 2013-16.

He is expected to be the Jets starting quarterback this upcoming season.

SKOL! The Vikings took the spoils. Norway's energetic, helmet-wearing fanbase descended on New York this week, and those who made up the majority of a sellout crowd of 80,663 Monday night at MetLife Stadium were rewarded with a conquering performance by their team that booked a place in the round of 32. Erling Haaland (right) scored twice as Norway defeated Senegal 3-2. Corey Sipkin (2); Luiz Ribeiro

BLASTROTURF

Under global microscope, some feel MetLife's grass withering in spotlight

By JONATHAN LEHMAN

Their grass is showing.

The artificial turf field at MetLife Stadium was replaced by a natural grass playing surface in advance of this summer's World Cup.

The project — encompassing years of R and D and an early May install — was designed to take the maligned home field of the Giants and Jets and make it fit for a procession of visiting soccer superstars and eventually the World Cup final, which is set for the venue (New York New Jersey Stadium in the official parlance) on July 19.

But that grass field received a string of salty reviews — yellow cards, if you will — from the first teams to play at the Meadowlands in the group stage of the World Cup.

"Well, the pitch was ... I don't know if I'd even call it that," France's Adrien Rabiot snarked after last Tuesday's tilt against Senegal. "It seemed more like an artificial pitch. It was hard and rigid, but it's like that for every team. ... I hope we find better pitches in our other games."

France manager Didier Deschamps called it a "special surface," not in a nice way.

"We need to get used to this," he said. "There might be some cement below the grass. You have very short shards of grass here."

Part of the World Cup's grass mandate, which affected eight stadiums across North America, is due to the different conditions optimal for soccer — the beauty in the beautiful game involves the ball rolling and skipping over the pitch in a certain way — as opposed to American football.

"Because of the weather and the heat, the grass dries out quickly and the game ends up being very slow," Brazil superstar Vinicius Junior said after his team opened its tournament with a draw against Morocco at MetLife. "We want to move the ball from one side to the other, and this disrupts our game."

Monday night's 3-2 win for Norway over Senegal — under gray skies that had covered the region in heavy rainfall during the day — was the third of eight matches being hosted at MetLife. Third down, goal to go.

The feedback after this one was apparently improved. The extra moisture seemed to help.

"My players like when it's been watered," Senegal coach Pape Thiaw said. "There was rain today, so it's a good thing for the pitch. My players didn't complain."

Norway's Fredrik André Bjørkan told The Post the field was "a little bit harder, the ball moves a little different." But the Norwegians, hailing from northern climes, are used to peculiar surfaces.

"We played on artificial grass our whole youth, so for us, no problem," Patrick Berg said. "Good footballers, with good technique, they handle the surface."

As kickoff approached Monday in East Rutherford, there were just a few slightly discolored patches of grass visible from above.

"The pitches at all 16 FIFA World Cup 2026 stadiums remain in excellent condition from both a playability and player safety perspective," FIFA said in a statement shared with The Post. "While there have been comments regarding the visual appearance of certain areas of the playing surface at NYNJ Stadium, FIFA's Turf Management Team's assessment is that every pitch is healthy and performing as intended for elite competition."

MetLife's grass mostly needs to be ready for the global showcase of the final, in a little less than four weeks' time. Until then, they're playing the lawn game.

jlehman@nypost.com

Mbappé launches France to knockouts

By DAN GELSTON

PHILADELPHIA — Kylian Mbappé scored twice to move into a tie for second in career World Cup goals with 16, and France played through the tournament's first rain delay to beat Iraq 3-0 on Monday and advance to the knockout stage.

Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembélé also scored for Les Bleus, giving fans who stuck out a rainy night in Philadelphia a reason to cut loose.

Mbappé scored in the 14th and 54th minutes to cap a momentous and soggy 100th international appearance for one of the best players in the world.

ROUNDUP

Mbappe's first goal gave France a 1-0 lead at halftime, when heavy rain and an incoming thunderstorm prompted a delay of just over two hours and forced the grounds crew to squeegee water off the swampy Kentucky bluegrass at Lincoln Financial Field.

Scoreboard messages directed the crowd to take shelter in the stadium's covered areas, warning that a severe storm was on the way. Sheets of rain continued to fall through halftime as fans wrapped themselves in ponchos and huddled in the concourse and under balconies.

Weather aside, this game — as so many do for France — belonged to Mbappé as he tries to keep pace on the career goals list with new record holder Lionel Messi.

Algeria 2, Jordan 1

In Santa Clara, Calif., Algeria scored off two corner kicks in the second half to rally from an early deficit and defeat Jordan 2-1 to bolster its chances of advancing to the knockout round of the World Cup.

Second-half substitute Nadhir Benbouali headed in a corner kick in the 69th minute and Amine Gouiri provided the game-winner in the 82nd to give Algeria its first win at the World Cup since 2014.

Fueled by doubt

Ex-Johnnies star Ejiofor driven to prove his naysayers wrong

ST. JOHN'S
24
SJ

READY TO WORK: Though there have been questions raised about Zuby Ejiofor's game, the St. John's star said he doesn't "shy away from doing the work" and put an end to the questions about what he brings to the table. Getty Images (2)

By ZACH BRAZILLER

Zuby Ejiofor has heard his critics.

He's a tweener. He's undersized. He doesn't have an NBA position.

The former St. John's star has a response: The criticism is fueling him.

"I've always played with a chip on my shoulder, since middle school up until this point," Ejiofor told The Post in a phone interview ahead of Tuesday's NBA draft. "There's still a lot of doubters, a lot of naysayers, a lot of questions about my game, and how it's going to transition to that next level.

"But if you know me personally, you know I'm never scared of the moment. I don't shy away from doing the work. I'm always in the gym working on my game, and making sure that I end those questions and those second thoughts about who I am and what I bring to the table."

Ejiofor enters the draft projected to go anywhere from late in the first round to early in the second. He had workouts with the Knicks, Bulls, Grizzlies, Thunder, Raptors, Spurs, Pistons, 76ers, Lakers, Nuggets, Celtics and Mavericks, and Zoom calls with the Hawks and Kings.

At a sculpted 6-foot-8, he is undersized for the NBA. Scouts wonder if he can make enough shots, after shooting 30.5 percent from 3-point range this past season on limited volume, and be able to score on the interior against bigger defenders.

But Ejiofor does have fans among NBA experts too, decision-makers who saw him go from a little-used reserve as a freshman at Kansas to one of the premier players in the country by his senior year at St. John's. He was the only high-major player in the country to lead his team in scoring (16.3), rebounding (7.3), assists (3.5) and blocked shots (2.1) this past season. He was the linchpin to the Johnnies winning back-to-back Big East regular-season and postseason crowns, and the first player in league history to be named the Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, Scholar-Athlete of the Year and Big East Tournament Most Outstanding Player.

He has the chance to be St. John's first first-round pick in 14 years, since Maurice Harkless went 15th overall in 2012.

"I feel like I'm a plug-and-play type of player. I'm a complementary type of player," Ejiofor, 22, said. "As far as physicality, I don't think there are any weaknesses with me. To everybody who has questions, I have the utmost confidence in myself that I'm going to be able to prove them wrong, and even expand on what I was able to do at St. John's."

An NBA scout familiar with Ejiofor compared him to a modern-day Charles Oakley. He defends multiple positions, he rebounds, he blocks shots and he has a relentless motor.

"All of a sudden the last few years, we have started to reward effort, where there was a time when effort was supposed to be a given," the scout said. "He's going to be a good piece on somebody's team somewhere."

Whatever happens this week, Ejiofor is excited for the next step in what he described as "running my own marathon." He was a top 50 prospect coming out of Garland High School in Texas, and started his career at Kansas. He didn't play much that year, and admittedly doubted his own ability. He transferred to St. John's to play for Rick Pitino, a decision Ejiofor has said several times changed his life.

DRAFT
COMBINE
Wilson

"You just gradually see yourself getting better and better each and every year," he said.

Ejiofor credits Pitino and the coaching staff for that, but Pitino believes a lot of the credit belongs to the star forward. He was the one putting in the work. He was the one treating practices like NCAA Tournament games. He was the one who became one of his all-time favorite players through sheer determination.

"He knows he's going to make it, because he's going to outwork almost anybody who gets in his way," Pitino said. "He's got that makeup. Very few people can outwork that young man."

Ejiofor became a fan favorite, the face of the Pitino era. His last college victory came over Kansas, a win that sent the Johnnies to their first Sweet 16 in 27 years. An argument can be made that he is the best St. John's player this century.

It has all led up to this point, to realize a lifelong dream that felt like a fantasy until recently.

"I'm telling myself right now, I don't want to shed any tears. I'll try to keep away from the cameras as much as possible," he said. "It'll feel a lot of weight off my shoulders. There's been a whole lot of ups and downs throughout this journey.

"It's been a long, long process for me. To hear my name called, would mean absolutely everything."

zbraziller@nypost.com

Hopkins confident St. John's made him ready for NBA

By ZACH BRAZILLER

Bryce Hopkins' college career started with John Calipari. It also included Ed Cooley and Kim English.

But nobody got him ready for the last few months better than Rick Pitino.

"Coach P definitely prepared me the most to be where I am today and to go through these NBA workouts, all the traveling and all the work you're putting in behind the scenes," the former Red Storm star said ahead of this week's NBA draft. "How Coach P ran his system and the culture he has at St. John's, it translates so easily to what these NBA teams are doing. When I go visit them and I see the players in early working out, lifting [weights] ... Coach P definitely prepared me for where I am today."

Hopkins is entering the draft with momentum, feeling like he has performed well in workouts. He has spent time with 12 teams, including the Knicks. He started the draft process strong, impressing at the G-League combine and getting a call-up to the regular combine. An NBA scout believes Hopkins is a candidate for a two-way contract, whether or not he hears his name called.

"I feel really good about my chances right now, compared to where I was before [the process]," Hopkins said. "But nothing was ever handed to me in my career. I always had to go out and fight for stuff."

Hopkins' lone season in Queens was a memorable one. He helped St. John's repeat as Big East regular-season and postseason champions and reach the program's first Sweet 16 in 27 years.

It wasn't a straight line of success for Hopkins. There was some inconsistency. But when the team took off in January, he found his game, and Hopkins was at his best in the postseason. He averaged 18.2 points and 7.5 rebounds while shooting 13-for-20 on 3-point attempts in the Big East tournament and NCAA tournament.

"That's really who I am," said the 6-foot-6 Hopkins, who will watch the draft with family and friends in his hometown of Chicago. "At the end of the season, we were all so comfortable playing with each other. Everybody knew what their roles were. We didn't want to lose. It was win or go home. That's the biggest thing: When you're comfortable out there, you're not thinking too much. You're just out there playing off of instincts."

Hopkins has been in constant contact with former teammates Zuby Ejiofor and Dillon Mitchell as they all get ready for the draft. St. John's last had a player drafted in 2015, and you have to go all the way back to 2000 when two Johnnies were picked. The trio has remained close and hopes to be celebrating again together.

Messi sets WC record despite his missed PK

By SCHUYLER DIXON

ARLINGTON, Texas — Lionel Messi set a World Cup record with his 17th and 18th goals, and defending champion Argentina advanced to the knockout stage with a 2-0 victory over Austria on Monday.

Messi had a golden opportunity to break the record in the ninth minute, but went wide to the right on a penalty kick. Almost 30 minutes later, Messi caught Alexander Schlager leaning the wrong way after Thiago Almada let Facuno Medina's pass go by him directly onto Messi's left foot.

ARGENTINA	**2**	**Group J**
AUSTRIA	**0**	

"There were moments when I was really angry about missing the penalty, but I was able to make up for it," Messi said.

In the waning seconds of injury time, Messi extended his record by sending a shot through several defenders after Schlager turned away his first attempt. He entered the game even with Germany striker Miroslav Klose, who scored 16 goals over four World Cups from 2002-14.

"Beyond anything I'm so happy for the win," Messi said. "It was huge, tough and difficult. It would allow us to be relaxed to what's ahead. All matches in this World Cup are very even, very intense. I'm enjoying this moment and craving to enjoy with my teammates."

Messi joined Just Fontaine and Jairzinho as the only players to score in six straight World Cup games, and he's second among men all-time with 122 international goals to Cristiano Ronaldo's 143.

Argentina extended its winning streak in the tournament to eight since a shocking loss to Saudi Arabia in its 2022 opener in Qatar.

Messi has scored all five of Argentina goals in the tournament and has 12 World Cup goals since turning 35. The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner had his first World Cup hat trick in Argentina's 3-0 win over Algeria in its Group J opener last week in Kansas City.

— AP

SONG OF THE

Stadium singalong has appeal across 'Country' on road to Cup glory

By MICHAEL DUARTE

IRVINE, Calif. — The most memorable moment inside Seattle Stadium last Friday during the 2-0 victory over Australia that sealed the USMNT's seat in the knockout rounds was not the dramatic flyover by four Black Hawk helicopters. It was not the own goal that opened the scoring. It was not Alex Freeman's header that secured the lead.

It was a song.

After the win, as players waved to supporters in the stands, John Denver's "Take Me Home, Country Roads" poured from the speakers. That's when 66,925 fans stood shoulder to shoulder and sang in unison as if they had rehearsed it their entire lives. Players wrapped their arms around their teammates and sang along.

For a few brief moments, the World Cup stopped being about strategy and standings.

It was about belonging. It was about unifying.

"It was incredible," veteran team captain Tim Ream said afterward. "I had to ask myself: 'Is this real life?' "

The scene quickly went viral. Fans across social media wondered the same thing: How did a 1971 folk-country classic become the unofficial anthem of the USMNT's World Cup run?

The answer begins before the tournament ever started.

Thursday
UNITED STATES
vs. TURKEY
10 p.m.
in Los Angeles
Fox
Group D

According to U.S. Soccer officials, FIFA asked all 48 participating nations to submit playlists that could be used for warmups, goals, hydration breaks and postgame celebrations. Rather than leave the decision to staff members, the U.S. turned to the players.

The players wanted songs that felt American and that supporters knew by heart and could sing together after games.

The players delivered a short list that included Bon Jovi's "Livin' on a Prayer," Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline" and Denver's "Country Roads."

There was one complication.

England had also selected "Sweet Caroline."

So when FIFA executive Amy Hopfinger, a former U.S. Soccer employee, helped finalize stadium music selections, "Country Roads" emerged as the choice that would follow American victories throughout the tournament.

What looked like a small administrative decision has now become something much bigger.

The beauty of "Country Roads" is that it belongs to everyone. It doesn't matter whether you're from West Virginia, California, Texas or New York. The song isn't really about geography. It's about home. About memory. About finding your place.

That theme mirrors this American team.

The roster is a reflection of modern America — players with roots stretching across continents, backgrounds and cultures. Yet when they speak publicly, the message is remarkably consistent.

"Inspire the next generation."

That phrase has become a mantra under head coach Mauricio Pochettino.

"Even if I am not American, after the game I was emotional," Pochettino admitted when he heard the whole stadium singing along Friday. "To connect with people is what we wanted."

That connection has now become undeniable.

For three unforgettable minutes in Seattle, tens of thousands of strangers joined with the 26 players on the field and sang the same song. Now they all share the same dream.

An unforgettable World Cup run on home soil.

mduarte@nypost.com

CROWD & PROUD: Fans in Seattle serenaded their USMNT heroes with "Country Roads" by John Denver, which has become an American anthem for this World Cup on home soil. Getty Images (2)

SUMMER

Americans haven't yet grasped impact at home

By ETHAN SEARS

IRVINE, Calif. — One of the great ironies around this U.S. men's national team is that the 26 men responsible for its World Cup run might be the least qualified to describe its impact — one of the biggest stories percolating in Orange County as training resumed Monday.

By design, the USMNT remains isolated. Their camp in Irvine is an hour south of the Los Angeles World Cup hub; their beachfront hotel is private. Many of the players live in Europe; a few grew up there. Their focus remains on the next training session and facing Turkey on Thursday.

To the extent the impact reaches them, it's in interview requests, the reporters who show up at training and the videos they're seeing on social media. And of course, the fans at games.

"I've been trying to comprehend it," Folarin Balogun said. "But I think America's such a big country, it's difficult. Weston [McKennie's] been showing me videos because I sit next to him on the plane, he's been showing me videos of fans in different parts, watching the games on big screens in bars and stuff.

"Every time we score, they're celebrating in different places. I think it's not something any of us can really comprehend because we're in it. I think once we're out of it and kinda getting on with our daily lives, we'll be able to see the impact. It's a beautiful thing."

Make no mistake: This World Cup will change lives, especially if the USMNT keeps winning.

For some — very possibly including Balogun, one of the breakout stars of this team — that will come in the form of a ballooning transfer value and demand for their services. There will be more endorsements and less ability to walk down the street unbothered. And, U.S. Soccer certainly hopes, more interest in competitions outside of the World Cup, better attendance at games and more kids kicking around a ball.

Of course, the players are conceptually aware of all of that. They've talked regularly about wanting to make the sport grow stateside. Actually feeling that impact, though, comes in fleeting moments during the tournament itself. The rest is to ponder afterward.

Even the atmospheres at the games themselves can escape notice while the game is ongoing. It wasn't until after Friday's game, when they joined the crowd in singing along to Bon Jovi and John Denver, that some players fully realized the scene they were part of.

"I think in the game, you don't realize how much support you have in the stands," Alex Freeman said Friday in Seattle. "And then, after the game, we're just able to take it all in and realize how much of a great support system we have in the U.S. fans."

There will be more moments of epiphany to come. Freeman, anonymous a year ago, has become a household name after scoring against Australia. The story of Balogun's mom being stopped from boarding a flight and giving birth to him in Brooklyn as a result has become legend.

They don't fully see it yet. How big it gets will depend on how far they go. Things can accelerate fast in this country.

"To have a whole nation behind you, that's something so special and when you come to games like [Friday's] and you see the support — there's been friendlies that we've played where we've been outnumbered, you know what I mean?" Tyler Adams said. "I just want every game to matter to the common spectator or people that don't even enjoy soccer.

"Let's go to the game, let's enjoy it. They know the players' names, they want to be the next whoever. Alex Freeman scored a goal today, there's gonna be kids running around wanting Alex Freeman jerseys. For me, that's what it's about. That's what the growth of the game is about. I know we have the possibility to do that."

esears@nypost.com

CHRIS MISS: Christian Pulisic trains Monday with teammates after missing a week with a calf injury. AP

Pulisic back in training, but could still sit

By ETHAN SEARS

USMNT NOTES

IRVINE, Calif. — Christian Pulisic was back in training with the U.S. men's national team Monday after missing the week leading into Friday's win over Australia with a left calf injury.

Though there wasn't an official update issued on Pulisic's status, or his chances of getting on the field Thursday in a dead-rubber match against Turkey, his return is a positive sign.

With reporters only getting to see 15 minutes of practice, it was unclear whether Pulisic participated in the full session.

Pulisic himself hasn't addressed reporters since immediately after the Paraguay game, when he said he'd been kicked in the left calf but expected to be OK. For a few days after that game, the tone from camp around Pulisic's injury was largely positive, but things shifted midway through last week. Ultimately, he was held out of the 2-0 win against Australia and — with the USMNT having won its group later that night — there's no incentive to rush him back before the round of 32 on July 1.

If Pulisic can play, though, giving him minutes to avoid a 19-day layoff has merit.

"It's a tough situation when you're going through a small little knock, could [call it an] injury, during an important tournament when everyone wants to be at their 100 percent," said midfielder Alex Zendejas, one of Pulisic's close friends on the team. "I think it's not so much talk about the injury or talk about the moment he's going through. Talk to him about other stuff, try to get his mind off it.

"Me and him get along. We have other guys, too, a little group. That helps, having someone else we can talk to, just to be there for him."

➤ Midfielder **Cristian Roldan** was held out of training with a muscle strain and is considered day to day. A spokesman declined to elaborate on which muscle he strained.

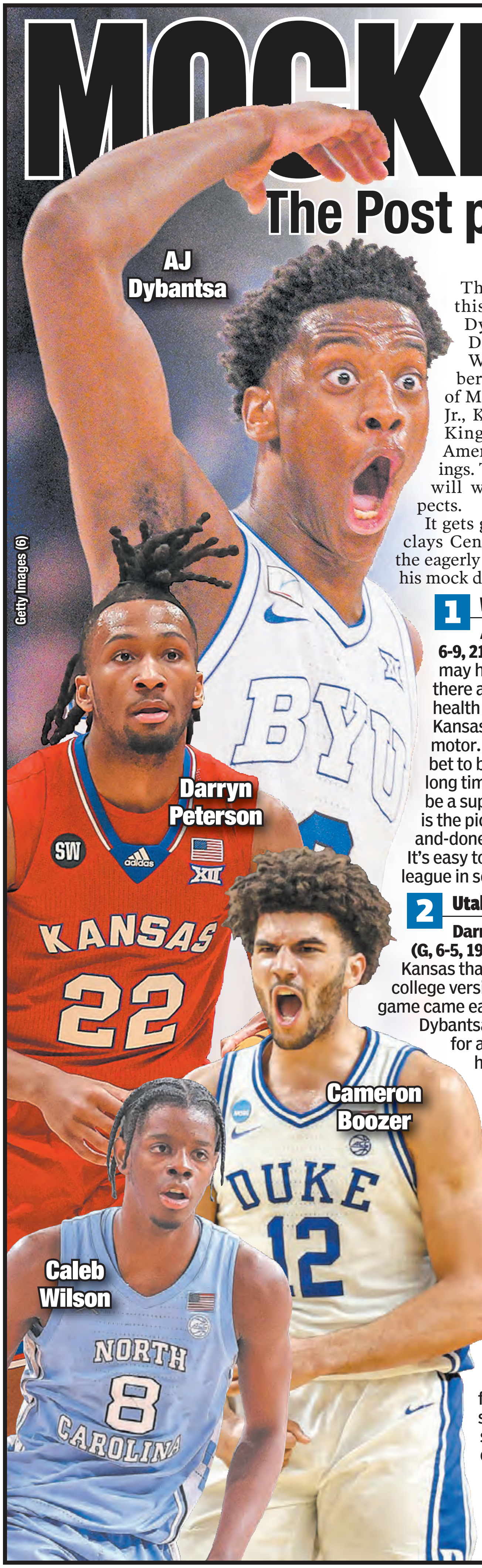
➤ **Folarin Balogun** missed the warmup period of training open to reporters and was spotted in the tent. A spokesman said he was doing extra recovery and there is no concern about his status.

Balogun said before training that despite being on a yellow card, he'd like to play against Turkey.

"Of course I want to play, but it's also important to be smart," Balogun said. "I don't want to pick up a yellow card and miss the round of 32."

MOCKED & LOADED

The Post predicts an absolutely stacked first round



Getty Images (6)

By ZACH BRAZILLER

The projected top four in this year's NBA draft — AJ Dybantsa, Cameron Boozer, Darryn Peterson and Caleb Wilson — are all No. 1-caliber most years. The next wave of Mikel Brown Jr., Darius Acuff Jr., Keaton Wagler, Aday Mara, Kingston Flemings and Nate Ament have incredibly high ceilings. Teams that fell in the lottery will wind up with strong prospects.

It gets going Tuesday night at Barclays Center. The Post breaks down the eagerly anticipated first round with his mock draft:

1 Washington Wizards

AJ Dybantsa, BYU (F, 6-9, 217 pounds): Darryn Peterson may have the highest upside, but there are major red flags, from his health issues in his one season at Kansas to his at times inconsistent motor. Cameron Boozer is a safe bet to be a productive player for a long time to come, but he may not be a superstar. That's why Dybantsa is the pick in the end. The BYU one-and-done has the fewest concerns. It's easy to envision him leading the league in scoring one day.

2 Utah Jazz

Darryn Peterson, Kansas (G, 6-5, 199): There were times at Kansas that Peterson looked like the college version of Kobe Bryant — the game came easy to him. He dominated Dybantsa in a one-on-one matchup for a half, before an injury limited him to three second-half minutes. Peterson met with the Jazz over the weekend, after initially only spending time with the Wizards.

3 Memphis Grizzlies

Cameron Boozer, Duke (F, 6-8, 252): If not for injuries to his supporting cast, Boozer may have become the first freshman to lead his team to a national title since Duke cut down the nets 11 years ago. He's a two-way dynamo, a bruising forward with playmaking skills who was just the sixth freshman to be the consensus National Player of the Year after averaging 22.5 points, 10.2 rebounds, 4.1 assists and shooting 39.1 percent from 3.

4 Chicago Bulls

Caleb Wilson, North Carolina (F, 6-9, 211): A supreme athlete, willing defender and fierce competitor, in a normal draft he is the No. 1 pick. He brings a combination of production in his lone year of college — he averaged 19.8 points, 9.4 rebounds and 2.7 assists — along with immense potential growth.

5 Los Angeles Clippers

Mikel Brown Jr., Louisville (G, 6-7, 221): When healthy, he made Louisville appointment viewing. The electric guard has drawn Damian Lillard comparisons — although a back injury, which limited him to 21 games, is somewhat of a concern.

6 Brooklyn Nets

Darius Acuff Jr., Arkansas (G, 6-2, 185): While the Nets are flush with point guards after drafting Egor Dëmin and Nolan Traore in the first round a year ago, they lack the Arkansas lead guard's promise. He was the first player to lead the SEC in both points and assists since Pete Maravich in 1970.

7 Sacramento Kings

Keaton Wagler, Illinois (G, 6-5, 188): There were supposedly 149 high school prospects better than Wagler in his class. But the freshman turned into one of the premier guards in college basketball. Most importantly he won, leading Illinois to its first Final Four in 21 years.

8 Atlanta Hawks

Aday Mara, Michigan (C, 7-3, 225): The biggest riser in this draft, Mara was a defensive linchpin for national champion Michigan. He's a natural fit for the contending Hawks, who desperately need a quality big man to join their young core of Jalen Johnson, Dyson Daniels and Nickeil Alexander-Walker.

9 Dallas Mavericks

Kingston Flemings, Houston (G, 6-3, 183): He defends, can make shots and is used to being coached hard after a season with Kelvin Sampson. "I think he's going to end up being really good. He does all the things you want your point guard to be able to do," said one scout.

10 Milwaukee Bucks

Nate Ament, Tennessee (F, 6-10, 210): Ament has the length, shotmaking and physical tools teams covet on the wing. His efficiency numbers at Tennessee were underwhelming, and he needs to get significantly stronger to avoid getting picked on defensively.

11 Golden State Warriors

Brayden Burries, Arizona (G, 6-2, 215): The Warriors are looking to win and not rebuild, making this a no-brainer choice. Burries can contribute immediately at both ends of the floor.

12 Oklahoma City Thunder

Yaxel Lendeborg, Michigan (F, 6-9, 241): Six years ago, Lendeborg was working at a warehouse, thinking his basketball career was over. His mother refused to allow him to give up. From junior college in Arizona to UAB then Michigan, the forward from Pennsauken, N.J., is living out a dream he didn't even think was possible.

13 Milwaukee Bucks

Hannes Steinbach, Washington (F, 6-10, 248): All it takes is one elite skill to stick in the NBA, and Steinbach can count rebounding as his. He led all of college basketball in that category (11.8) in his lone season at Washington, and his 22 double-doubles equaled Boozer for the most nationally.

14 Charlotte Hornets

Morez Johnson Jr., Michigan (F, 6-9, 250): The unsung hero of Michigan's first national championship team in 37 years, he's a switchable defender, has untapped offensive upside and is a max-effort guy that plays with an edge.

15 Chicago Bulls

Cameron Carr, Baylor (G, 6-5, 184): The silky-smooth Carr with the uptempo Bulls. He has pogo sticks for legs and in-the-building range. Pairing Carr with Wilson creates a fun young tandem for new coach Tiago Splitter to work with.

16 Memphis Grizzlies

Karim Lopez, New Zealand Breakers (F, 6-8, 222): The lone international prospect in this mock, Lopez needs time to develop his perimeter jumper and ball-handling skills. But the Mexican-born Lopez has NBA athleticism, plays with physicality and has the potential to be a defensive menace with his 7-foot wingspan.

17 Oklahoma City Thunder

Dailyn Swain, Texas (F, 6-7, 211): A strong perimeter defender who can touch the paint with a creative bag of countermoves sounds like a perfect match for the drive-and-kick Thunder. Swain lived at the rim this past season for Texas. Even if his 3-point shot doesn't improve, he's at worst a quality wing contributor for a winning team.

18 Charlotte Hornets

Labaron Philon Jr., Alabama (G, 6-3, 176): It's the annual draft debate: Production or projection? Philon had a fantastic sophomore season for Alabama, tallying 22 points, five assists and shooting 39.9 percent from distance on 6.1 attempts. But teams are concerned about his thin frame holding up against NBA physicality and his agility testing at the combine created questions about his lateral quickness.

19 Toronto Raptors

Bennett Stirtz, Iowa (G, 6-3, 186): The shooting-starved Raptors can use someone like Stirtz, one of the top 3-point marksmen in this class. He can initiate offense and spread the floor. The Iowa standout is comfortable on and off the ball.

20 San Antonio Spurs

Chris Cenac Jr., Houston (F, 6-10, 240): The Spurs need help on the interior to support Victor Wembanyama, and Cenac can provide backup minutes to the superstar Frenchman and play alongside him.

21 Detroit Pistons

Christian Anderson Jr., Texas Tech (G, 6-1, 180): Detroit wants to add offensive firepower, especially from long distance, to make it tougher on teams to load up on star Cade Cunningham. Anderson fits that need as arguably the top shooter in this class.

22 Philadelphia 76ers

Allen Graves, Santa Clara (F, 6-8, 226): The 6-8 forward has a 7-foot wingspan, soft touch from deep (41.3 percent from 3 on 2.6 attempts) and possesses offensive hub potential and possesses an advanced feel for the game.

23 Atlanta Hawks

Koa Peat, Arizona (F, 6-7, 245): Major bust potential. Non-shooting wings like Peat who don't project to be a difference-making defender rarely stick in the league.

24 New York Knicks

Isaiah Evans, Duke (G, 6-6, 186): He went from a spot-up shooter to a multifaceted scorer in his second season at Duke, and has upside to be a steal in this spot.

Joshua Jefferson

25 Los Angeles Lakers

Tarris Reed Jr., Connecticut (C, 6-10, 264): An old-school-style big man, Reed was dominant in Connecticut's run to the NCAA championship game, posting 19.5 points, 13.2 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 1.5 blocks.

26 Denver Nuggets

Joshua Jefferson, Iowa State (F, 6-8, 246): He may not have one elite skill, but Jefferson does everything well. He rebounds, he guards, he distributes, he can score and the 3-point shot is improving, too.

27 Boston Celtics

Ebuka Okorie, Stanford (G, 6-1, 186 pounds): e's undersized, but that didn't stop the freshman from averaging 23.2 points and shooting 46.5 percent from the field in the ACC.

28 Brooklyn Nets

Zuby Ejiofor, St. John's (F, 6-8, 245 pounds): The Nets added a second first-round pick Monday night in a three-way trade that landed them Julius Randle from the Timberwolves and sent Nic Claxton to the Bulls. The rebuilding Nets would benefit from adding a selfless, high-character, defensively versatile forward like Ejiofor. He's a winner, and the Nets appear ready to stop tanking.

29 Cleveland Cavaliers

Meleek Thomas, Arkansas (G, 6-3, 190): The Cavaliers appear committed to running it back with Donovan Mitchell and James Harden, and that duo could use more perimeter shooting to space the floor. Enter Thomas, a terrific shooter on the move as well as in spot-up situations.

30 Dallas Mavericks

Jayden Quaintance, Kentucky (C, 6-9, 253): If not for questions about his surgically repaired right knee, the rim-running, shot-blocking prospect would have gone in the lottery. After ACL surgery in March 2025, Quaintance appeared in only four games this season.

No. 1 topic of debate as draft arrives tonight

By ZACH BRAZILLER

AJ Dybantsa expects to be the No. 1 pick.

Darryn Peterson believes he should be the No. 1 pick.

Cameron Boozer said he deserves to be in the conversation for the No. 1 pick.

There might not be a right answer for the Wizards in Tuesday's loaded NBA draft at Barclays Center — three impressive prospects who all have an argument to be selected first.

"There's definitely competition. You see what they did. Great players who averaged the same amount of points," Dybantsa said Monday, as the draft green room invitees met members of the media at Lotte New York Palace in Midtown. "But I'm gonna bet on myself."

The general expectation is that the 6-foot-9 Dybantsa will go first, followed by the 6-5 Peterson and the 6-8 Boozer. A Western Conference executive broke it down this way: Dybantsa is a safe choice with upside, and the Wizards need a No. 1 scoring option. The Jazz, at No. 2, aren't afraid of taking risks, and finding an elite guard like Peterson is difficult. That leaves the Grizzlies and Boozer at No. 3. That's not a consolation prize.

"He will be a stud," the executive said.

Boozer had the most successful season of the three, leading Duke to the Elite Eight and the ACC regular-season and postseason crowns. He became the sixth freshman to be the consensus National Player of the Year after averaging 22.5 points, 10.2 rebounds, 4.1 assists, and shooting 39.1 percent from 3. If not for injuries to his supporting cast, Boozer might have been the first freshman to lead his team to a national championship since Duke's freshmen in 2015.

Experts, however, see Dybantsa as the top talent in this draft. In his lone year at BYU, he produced 25.5 points, 6.8 rebounds and 3.7 assists, and has been considered the front-runner for quite some time. As early as eighth grade, he was ranked No. 1, and he never lost that spot.

"He's the best guy. He's the most well-rounded player in the first five. There aren't people who do what he does," an NBA scout said. "The kid continuously worked on his game and got better. With all the other distractions, he ended up getting better."

Of the three, Peterson is somewhat of a mystery. He dealt with an assortment of injuries, cramps and illnesses and missed 11 games. Frequently, he played sparingly in the second half of close games. His motor and desire have been questioned. After the season, he told ESPN that high doses of creatine led to severe cramping.

"The questions that I have are about s--t I can't answer, and they won't answer them," the scout said.

Despite a recent report that Peterson would only meet with the Wizards, he spent time with the Jazz over the weekend, though he only worked out for Washington. Peterson was adamant he isn't dodging any team.

"Whoever takes me, I'm going to come in and be delighted to be there," he said.

Asked about the doubts, Peterson responded: "I'm back, period. That's it. I'm myself again, I'm feeling great. I never felt better, actually."

He was impressive when he was on the floor for Kansas, tallying 20.2 points, 4.2 rebounds and shooting 38.2 percent on 6.9 attempts from distance. Peterson believes he's the best player in the draft.

"I'm supposed to [feel that way], I think I prove it all the time," he said.

This is far from a three-player draft. North Carolina forward Caleb Wilson would be a No. 1 contender most years and seemingly a lock to go to the Bulls at No. 4. The next wave, featuring guards Mikel Brown Jr. of Louisville, Darius Acuff Jr. of Arkansas, Kingston Flemings of Houston and Keaton Wagler of Illinois, wing Nate Ament of Tennessee and center Aday Mara of Michigan, is full of highly regarded prospects. This draft has been talked about for years as not only being elite at the top but impressively deep.

"I think there are some hidden gems," Dybantsa said. "When we see ourselves in 15 years, I think a lot of us will still be in the league, and it will be [considered] one of the best draft classes [ever]."

zbraziller@nypost.com

Mavs shocking coach hire

Michigan head coach Dusty May is finalizing a deal to become the next head coach of the Mavericks, per ESPN.

May, 49, led the Wolverines to their first national championship since 1989 this past season, his second year in Ann Arbor after joining from FAU. He compiled a 64-13 record, a Big Ten tournament championship, a Big Ten regular-season title and back-to-back NCAA Tournament appearances.

It marks the first NBA job for May, who worked his way up from a former Indiana basketball manager, making multiple stops on his way to becoming known as one of the best roster-construction coaches in college basketball.

The Mavericks have the No. 9 pick in the draft and May could conceivably reunite with Michigan standout center Aday Mara or forward Yaxel Lendeborg.

— Collin Ward

DUSTY MAY
Led Michigan to national title

MONEY TO YEARN

Knicks could deal first-rounder for more cap flexibility

NOT GONE YET: The Knicks may have a path to keep pending free agents Landry Shamet (44) and Mitchell Robinson after all.

Getty Images (2)

By STEFAN BONDY

There are most often two ways to analyze a draft choice:

Best player available or best fit?

But in this apron era — and especially with the Knicks — there's a third consideration: How much money will that draft pick cost?

James Dolan stated on WFAN recently, in no uncertain terms, that the Knicks will not be delving into the second apron. The reactions around the league were head-scratching and skepticism.

After all, New York just won a title and, as constituted, is dangerously close to the second apron. Retaining the majority of its own free agents — most notably Mitchell Robinson and Landry Shamet — would be impossible if Dolan's declaration were ironclad.

Dolan claimed his concerns over the second apron were only about its restrictions toward roster-building but perhaps overestimated the penalties.

For the first year in the second apron, the biggest impediment for the Knicks would be an inability to aggregate contracts in a trade. And let's face it — with New York's starting lineup locked up contractually, it'll be more important to re-sign free agents than make a major midseason trade.

The second apron is a fine place to dwell for a championship contender. At least for one year. Then the penalties get more severe.

Unsurprisingly, no NBA team has been in the second apron for consecutive seasons.

"I think there's still a priority to resign your own free agents, even if it means exceeding the second apron," Bobby Marks, an ESPN front office insider, told The Post. "I think the second apron is a detriment for teams that are not championship level. Because as Boston showed a year ago, there are always ways to get out of the second apron the following year. I think it's a matter of what the price point of some of your free agents are. With Landry and Mitch. And Jose [Alvarado] has a player option [$4.5 million] — if some team comes in and blows the doors off, then maybe there's a point you have to walk away. But then if you think about what the alternative is — the alternative is if you do draw a line in the sand and say, 'We cannot be a second apron team,' then you're basically gonna be playing the minimum market. You're basically gonna have to find another Landry but on a minimum contract. You're going to have to find a center at the minimum."

This is also where the draft becomes important. If the Knicks are trying to be ultracareful with their cap space, their 24th overall pick Tuesday becomes expensive. As Marks noted, that draft choice — no matter who it is — represents a $3.6 million cap hit.

Trading the pick helps financial flexibility and, according to league sources, the Knicks are exploring multiple deals. Not coincidentally, Alvarado agreed to push back the deadline for his player option from Monday until after the draft (Friday). There are a lot of unsettled money matters.

"I think there's two ways to look at it," Marks said. "There's that way where you're moving out of the first round and maybe you're picking up more seconds or a future first down the road because it does give you an extra $3.6 million in flexibility.

"We're projecting them at $13 million under the second apron including their first-round pick. So they'd get roughly another $3.6 million more in flexibility if they trade it. So that is one way to look at it. The other way to look at it is they make the pick because they say, 'We got all these high salaries in the starting lineup. We need young players on our bench on low-salary controllable contracts to be a rotational player down the road when these players eventually get older.' So I think there's two ways to look at it. It wouldn't surprise me if they did either."

The Knicks also own the 31st and 55th picks in the draft, which are the cheapest options to fill out the roster.

One thing is for certain. Brock Aller, the team's capologist, will find an innovative way to make it work, if need be. Two years ago, he got the first-round pick (Pacôme Dadiet) to sign at less than the rookie max for that draft slot, allowing space for the Karl-Anthony Towns trade a few months later. In that same draft, the Knicks targeted Tyler Kolek in the first round but maneuvered their way into landing the point guard with the 34th pick, furnishing Kolek with the most lucrative contract ever for a second-rounder.

At the trade deadline last season, the Knicks benefited from another contract anomaly when Guerschon Yabusele agreed to waive his player option so he could be dealt, essentially, for Alvarado.

It was the final move from Leon Rose before the Knicks championship push and until Tuesday's draft. Their good problem is the 24th pick not being such a high priority. Per sources, the Knicks still feel good about Dadiet's potential despite his lack of playing time. They also will re-sign Mo Diawara, who developed into an unexpected rotational piece during the regular season. Kolek is a young playmaker under contract.

If Dolan retracts his 'no second apron' stance, the Knicks are sitting pretty regardless of how Tuesday shakes out.

sbondy@nypost.com

Who will the Knicks take?

No. 24: Nobody

The Knicks are candidates to trade this pick for a multitude of reasons. They are watching their spending and a first-round pick is costly against the cap. They have two picks in the second round, so they could either use those for cheaper players or combine them with the first-rounder to move up higher if they identify a favorite prospect. And, finally, the Knicks are championship ready, so trading for future assets — which can be flipped down the line for a vet — is more valuable than a rookie. *— Stefan Bondy*

NBA DRAFT 2026

Round 1
Tuesday, 8 p.m.
ABC, ESPN
Round 2
Wednesday, 8 p.m., ESPN
Barclays Center

Diawara close to multiyear contract

By STEFAN BONDY

Mohamed Diawara and the Knicks are very close to a reunion.

Although the final terms are not yet determined as the Knicks work through their cap situation, Diawara is progressing toward a multiyear deal worth more than $10 million, a source confirmed to The Post.

Diawara, a 21-year-old wing, was a rookie revelation for much of last season as the 51st overall pick, logging 69 games while averaging 3.6 points and shooting 37 percent from beyond the arc.

He was projected as a G-League project but elevated into the rotation by mid-December and quickly earned coach Mike Brown's trust. Diawara's breakout was Dec. 29 against the Pelicans, when he dropped 18 points in just 18 minutes while knocking down seven treys.

With a 7-foot-4 wingspan on a 6-9 frame, Diawara always projected as a strong defender. But his offense — specifically the confidence to launch 3-pointers — was a pleasant surprise for the Knicks.

His reward is a hefty raise after earning just $1.27 million last season, the lowest salary on the Knicks. Assuming he agrees to terms with the Knicks, Diawara will forgo restricted free agency — where the Knicks would've had the option to match any offer.

Despite his regular-season success, Diawara was out of the playoff rotation and mostly watched the championship run from the bench. He played just six games in the postseason and shot 23 percent, with Landry Shamet, Miles McBride, Jose Alvarado and Jordan Clarkson getting the majority of backup wing/guard minutes.

Nets bring Randle back to Big Apple in predraft splash

BROOKLYN BOUND: Julius Randle, who called MSG home for five seasons, is coming back to New York after a three-team deal was agreed upon Monday night. The Nets land Randle and the No. 28 pick, shipping out Nic Claxton and the No. 33 pick. Getty Images

By BRIAN LEWIS

The Nets — who always seem to deal right before draft night — have been looking to add a second first-round pick and another veteran scorer. They pulled off both, landing Julius Randle and the 28th pick for Nic Claxton and No. 33 in a three-team swap.

The Nets — one of the few teams in the league with ample cap space — used it to acquire Randle, a two-time All-NBA forward and three-time All-Star. They also moved up from the top of the second round into the bottom of the first in a loaded draft, and potentially opened a starting spot for Day'Ron Sharpe.

GM Sean Marks shipped Claxton to Chicago, and since the Bulls are acquiring the center with cap space, the deal — first reported by ESPN and confirmed by The Post — can't be finalized until July 6. The Nets will keep the No. 6 overall pick — likely to be used on a lead guard — and also have Nos. 28 and 43.

The 6-foot-9, 250-pound Randle was just one year into a three-year, $100 million deal with Minnesota, but the Timberwolves were desperate to free up cap space to re-sign guard Ayo Dosunmu (and a starting spot for Naz Reid). Now the former Knick — who spent five years in the Garden — comes back to New York.

Michael Porter Jr. shouldered the burden of being Brooklyn's lone reliable scorer last season. Randle averaged 21.1 points and 6.7 rebounds in 79 games.

With Randle earning $33.3 million this season and having a player option of $35.8 million next season, Brooklyn increased its payroll by $13 million. They'll still maintain $20.2 million in room left, per cap guru Yossi Gozlan of The Third Apron, and have the $9.4 million room level to spend afterward.

Brooklyn now has 15 first-round picks through 2033, including two Tuesday.

Two among Louisville's Mikel Brown, Illinois' Keaton Wagler and Arkansas' Darius Acuff Jr. should still be on the board at No. 6. But with Wagler likely to be off the board, Brown — with deep range, an elite passing bag and a risk-taking mentality that must get reined in — has had at least three meetings and one workout with the Nets.

"Yeah, it's definitely a relationship built there," Brown said. "Talking with them constantly, with Mr. Marks and Coach Jordi [Fernández], the biggest thing that he emphasized — if I get selected to go there — is building that relationship with Jordi.

"At the end of the day, you've got to have a great connection from point guard to point guard. [Fernández] played point guard as well. So to be able to pick his brain on a lot of things and learn his system and to be able to come in and make an impact right away was big."

Ex-Nets assistant GM Bobby Marks — now an ESPN insider — told The Post that taking three first-round guards last year shouldn't deter them from taking another, because that's where the value sits at No. 6. He also said they might be best suited using cap space in trades rather than signings, and that's exactly what they did.

Acuff has both visited with and worked out for the Nets and is the most polished offensive guard in the class, but his defense is a concern. Wagler worked out for the Bulls (who have the fourth pick) and the Clippers (who'll select fifth), then canceled a scheduled workout for Brooklyn.

"Just hearing from them and kind of just knowing where I stood, I kind of knew I didn't need to work out," said Wagler.

Brown said he would be excited to land with the Nets.

"It'd mean a lot. Big city. It's the big city, bright lights. A lot of big-time names come out of Brooklyn, so to be able to represent that means a lot," said Brown.

"I would handle it. I'm very calm and down to earth. I'm about this basketball stuff. I keep the main thing the main thing. The focus is to try to win a championship."

St. John's star Zuby Ejiofor, Texas wing Dailyn Swain or Houston forward Chris Cenac Jr. — who said of joining the Nets, "I think it would be great, I love New York City" — could be targets at No. 28.

brian.lewis@nypost.com

Who will the Nets take?

No. 6: Mikel Brown Jr., Louisville

The price to move into the top four ends up being too steep, so they'll take the best available player at No. 6. With Keaton Wagler likely off the board one spot earlier, that could be Brown. A back injury and tough shot diet led to inconsistency as a freshman. But only three players since 2008 have had an assist percentage over 30, shot 84 percent from the foul line, had a free-throw rate over 35 and taken at least 14 3s per 100 possessions — Stephen Curry, Trae Young and Brown. August company, that.

No. 28: Meleek Thomas, Arkansas

The Nets end up drafting an Arkansas teen guard, but it's not Darius Acuff Jr. It's Thomas, who averaged 15 points and shot 41.6 percent from deep.

— Brian Lewis

Giannis traded to Heat

By THOMAS GAMBA-ELLIS

The Greek Freak is taking his talents to South Beach.

The Bucks traded Giannis Antetokounmpo to the Heat in a blockbuster trade late Monday, according to ESPN, ending hours of speculation with Miami and the Celtics emerging as the finalists.

The Bucks also sent Bobby Portis to Miami in exchange for Tyler Herro, Kel'el Ware, Jaime Jaquez Jr., Kasparas Jakucionis, unprotected first-round picks in 2031 and 2033, along with the No. 13 pick in tonight's draft, a 2033 second-round pick and a pick swap in 2030, according to ESPN.

Boston offered star Jaylen Brown and two first-rounders to the Bucks, according to ESPN.

It has been long speculated that Antetokounmpo's time in Milwaukee was coming to an end, with drama between both parties occurring throughout the 2025-26 NBA season.

Despite it looking like the Bucks were going to move on from the 10-time All-Star ahead of the trade deadline, they were ultimately unsuccessful in engaging in trade talks in February.

Antetokounmpo reportedly first expressed wanting to be traded last May, which then prompted Milwaukee to give big man Myles Turner a $108.7 million deal in an attempt to build a contending team for this past season.

Things did not work out, however, with the Bucks finishing with a 32-50 record and their first year missing the postseason in a decade.

Antetokounmpo played just 36 games last year, averaging 27.6 points, 9.8 rebounds and 5.4 assists while being sidelined with knee problems for the majority of the season. His injury was also a source of concern for the NBA, with the league investigating the Bucks for allegedly violating the "player participation policy and potential inconsistent statements."

Despite Antetokounmpo claiming that he was ready to play again, the Bucks refused to medically clear the two-time MVP.

CAN'T KEEP EW' DOWN

Tough season means not letting rookie get accustomed to losing

By DAN MARTIN

This has been a miserable season in Queens.

The Mets entered Monday in last place in the National League East with only two NL teams owning worse records: the Giants and Rockies.

A turnaround at this point seems unlikely, since the team's litany of issues — from injuries to key players, to poor performance from the rotation and the lineup — has left it reeling.

One of the few bright spots has been the emergence of the rookie outfielders, as Carson Benge and A.J. Ewing have at least met expectations.

Now, they have to make sure they don't get accustomed to losing.

Ewing, the 21-year-old who's been in the majors a little over a month, acknowledged the challenge of adjusting to the majors while not winning as much as he's used to.

"You've got to show up every single day," Ewing said. "Everyone in this room is trying to win every day and putting their best foot forward whenever they're here. There are gonna be ups and downs. Those are gonna happen, and it's impossible to avoid them. I'm gonna keep showing up."

That included Monday, when he was scheduled to be in the lineup against Cubs left-hander Shota Imanaga before the game was postponed due to rain, with plans to make it up Wednesday as part of a split doubleheader.

The Mets have been careful about which lefties the left-handed-hitting Ewing faces. While Monday was rained out, Ewing nonetheless will have to improve that part of his game in order to reach his potential.

In what has a chance of becoming a lost season for the Mets, they're looking to see what they have in their younger players, like Ewing and Benge.

"It's big," Carlos Mendoza said of getting Ewing in the lineup versus southpaws, as he has just a .437 OPS against lefty pitching, compared to .823 against righties.

"That's part of the development at this level," the manager said. "I've said from the beginning, he'd get some starts against lefties. We had some tough ones here and there, but I feel good about what he brings to the table. The more at-bats you give this guy, he'll benefit from it."

So far, so good.

After going through a horrid 13-game stretch in which he went 8-for-44 with no extra-base hits, two walks and 19 strikeouts, Ewing recovered and has hit well in 17 games since.

"There's always a chance when the initial success a young guy has runs out that he's gonna get stuck in that kind of slump he was in," said one American League scout who has seen Ewing this season. "You watch to see if that's gonna happen and if he's gonna give them a reason to send him back to [Triple-A] Syracuse. That didn't happen with him. That will probably do him some good, even with them not winning."

The not winning part could take a toll.

Ewing said he has a way of getting around that.

"A lot of growth happens when a person or team hits adversity," Ewing said. "We're growing. Every single day, I act like we're on a 20-game winning streak, no matter what. That gives you confidence. I've always believed that and as a competitor, that's what you have to do."

dan.martin@nypost.com

NOT AS PLANNED: Rookie outfielder A.J. Ewing has not had the opportunity to play for a Mets team that has met lofty preseason expectations.

Imagn Images (2)

Holmes: No room to sweat deadline while still a Met

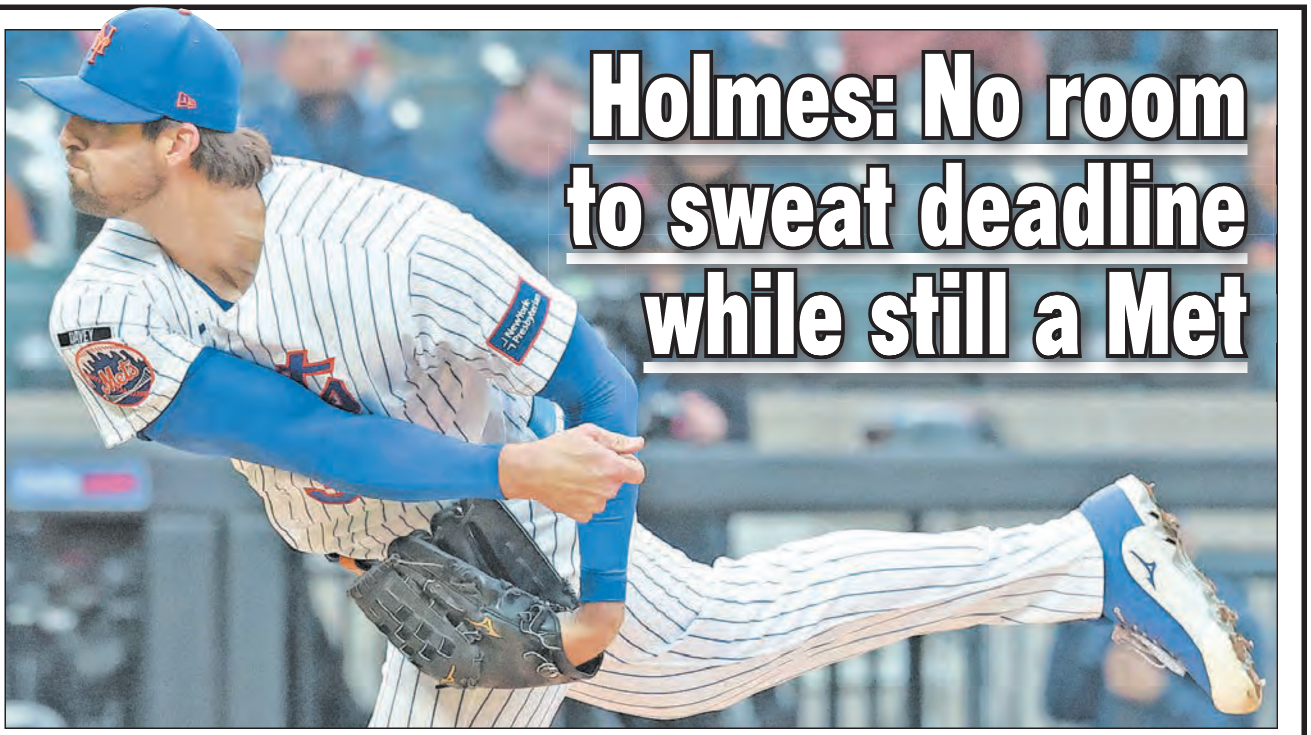
By SPENCER BROD

As Clay Holmes continues his recovery from a fractured fibula, the right-hander said two things aren't on his mind: the Aug. 3 trade deadline and his long-term future with the Mets.

Holmes suffered the fractured fibula May 15, and while he's been able to play catch with some intensity, he's still not close to returning to a beleaguered rotation.

Because of his performance prior to the injury and the Mets sitting in last place in the National League East, Holmes has been mentioned as a potential trade candidate. But even as the season continues to spiral, his focus remains on the team.

"I think it'd be doing a disservice to the group I'm here with now," Holmes said Monday when asked about the trade deadline. "These are my teammates. I care a lot about the people in this room, and that not [having] my full attention on coming back and helping this team would be a disservice to this team and these guys."



RUMOR MILL: Clay Holmes has been the subject of trade chatter while recovering from a fractured fibula. Robert Sabo

Holmes said he cannot put exact dates on his recovery timeline and hasn't started running or jumping yet, noting it's not just about his ankle but how the rest of his body responds.

The 33-year-old added that he'll likely have a better idea of a return date once he gets more imaging on the injury — which should happen soon — to determine when he can move forward in his comeback.

Holmes, who signed a three-year, $38 million contract with the Mets in December 2024, was providing an otherwise stumbling Mets rotation with much-needed stability early this year. He pitched to just a 2.39 ERA across nine starts and allowed more than two runs just once.

But Holmes' injury, suffered against the Yankees on a Spencer Jones comebacker, has left the Mets rotation with more questions than answers as their season continues to disappoint amid a 34-43 start.

Kodai Senga owns a 9.00 ERA through six starts. Freddy Peralta's ERA skyrocketed to 4.83 after surrendering a career-high 10 runs Saturday. Rookie Nolan McLean has been respectable but inconsistent.

With Peralta's value likely decreasing due to poor performance, Holmes may be one of the Mets' top trade chips if they decide to sell and retool at the deadline.

Holmes' three-year deal includes an opt-out after 2026, making free agency a possibility.

Still, his long-term future is the furthest thing from his mind.

"I want to help them out, so I'm invested in these people. I'm working as hard as I can to get back and help the people in this room out," Holmes said.

sbrod@nypost.com

Lindor simulated game pushed back by weather

ON DECK: vs. Cubs

Tuesday, 7:10 p.m., SNY, WHSQ (880 AM)

RHP Kodai Senga	RHP Edward Cabrera
2026 stats: 0-5, 9.00 ERA	**2026 stats:** 4-4, 5.21 ERA
Career vs. CHC: 1-2, 6.91 ERA	**Career vs. NYM:** 3-2, 5.01 ERA
Last start: Tues., at CIN; 4 IP, 2 H, 4 ER	**Last start:** Tues., vs. COL; 4.1 IP, 3 H, 5 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

Senga			Cabrera		
37%	25%	22%	31%	21%	19%
4-Seamer	Cutter	Forkball	Changeup	Sinker	Curveball

UP NEXT

WEDNESDAY GAME 1: vs. Cubs, 1:10 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
**RHP Nolan McLean vs. LHP Shota Imanaga*
WEDNESDAY GAME 2: vs. Cubs, 7:10 p.m., PIX11, WHSQ
**LHP Sean Manaea vs. RHP Javier Assad*
THURSDAY: vs. Cubs, 7:10 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
RHP Freddy Peralta vs. TBD
*order of pitchers TBD

INJURY REPORT

■ **Kodai Senga** avoided having to pitch on a wet mound Monday in his second start back after coming back from the injured list due to lumbar spine inflammation.

By DAN MARTIN

METS NOTES

The Mets-Cubs game wasn't the only rainout Monday night.

Francisco Lindor's chance at a simulated game was washed away, as well, but the Mets haven't ruled out the shortstop returning to the lineup on Wednesday, Carlos Mendoza said.

Lindor, rehabbing a left calf strain that has kept him sidelined since April 22, played a full minor league game for Triple-A Syracuse on Sunday and was supposed to go through a simulated game at Citi Field Monday before the Mets opened a series against the Cubs. Inclement weather limited Lindor to working out indoors and he's scheduled to play again for Syracuse on Tuesday at Lehigh Valley.

If that goes well, Mendoza said the team would "reassess" Lindor's status and "see what's next for him."

"We'll see whether he needs a day off or if he's ready to come back," the manager said. "We just have to get through [Tuesday] and we'll have those discussions."

Lindor also played a rehab game for Double-A Binghamton on Friday before receiving a day off Saturday.

The Mets have had Bo Bichette mostly at shortstop without Lindor and have seen their season disintegrate with Lindor out after he was injured on the same day Juan Soto returned from his own calf injury in April.

Monday's game will be made up as part of a split doubleheader on Wednesday at Citi Field.

The first game is scheduled to begin at 1:10 p.m. followed by the originally scheduled game at 7:10 p.m. Fans with paid tickets for the game originally scheduled to be played Monday may use them for the rescheduled game on Wednesday.

➤ It feels like the Mets have been waiting for decades for **Mark Vientos** and **Brett Baty** to reach their respective potentials.

And now, they can't get the two corner infielders to get going at the same time.

Just as Vientos shook off an ugly 17 at-bat hitless skid with a solid six-game stretch in which he's gone 6-for-17 with a pair of homers, Baty finds himself in an 0-for-12 rut.

Vientos' ability to hit lefty pitching — and inability to do anything against righties — has been an issue throughout his career and it's been even more pronounced this season.

He has an OPS of .830 against lefties, compared to .776 for his career, but his struggles with right-handers on the mound have been even more pronounced: .543 OPS this season and .692 in his career.

FLAT KING COLE

Ace roughed up in forgettable outing as Yanks lose 3rd straight

By GREG JOYCE

DETROIT — Whether he was most frustrated by a few pitches left over the heart of the plate, the inability to retire leadoff hitters, the Tigers finding some holes on him, or a pair of in-game delays, the problem was that Gerrit Cole had options.

The Yankees did, too.

On a third straight day when their offense was held in check, Cole got hit around more than he had all season as the Yankees dropped their third straight in a rough 5-3 loss to the Tigers on Monday night at Comerica Park.

TIGERS	**5**
YANKEES	**3**

Boxscore Page 37

Cole, who came into the night holding opposing hitters to a .196 batting average in his first five starts back from Tommy John surgery, got tagged for nine hits and five runs across 4 1/3 innings. He allowed the leadoff batter to reach in all five innings, including a home run in the fifth, as the Tigers (34-44) raced out to a 5-1 lead.

"I certainly made some mistakes, but the opposition is going to put pressure on you sometimes," said Cole, who struck out five and walked one across 89 pitches. "The reality is it's not the try-hard league, it's the get-it-done league, and we just didn't get it done tonight."

Tigers lefty Framber Valdez, meanwhile, suffocated the Yankees (46-31) after they squandered some early chances, retiring the final 10 batters he faced across six innings. Amed Rosario belted a two-run shot in the seventh inning to pull the Yankees within 5-3, but that was as close as they would get.

The Yankees threatened by putting a pair of runners on base with two outs in the eighth inning, but the Tigers brought in Will Vest — a possible trade deadline candidate for the Yankees — who struck out Jasson Domínguez and then retired the side in the ninth.

After a strong stretch, the Yankees have now scored just six runs over their past three games and three or fewer runs in four of their past five games.

"I just think it's part of the season," Rosario said through an interpreter. "We've been there before. [Tuesday], we have a really good opportunity to tie the series and hopefully win this series. You can't really panic. You understand you go through some stretches like that, but looking forward to [Tuesday]."

Since he returned from the injured list in late May, Cole has looked like his vintage self at times and more human at others, like Monday. There was an understanding all along that there would be some ups and downs as he settled back into pitching regularly for the first time since 2024, and that the Yankees would handle him with the long run in mind — as they did this turn by inserting Elmer Rodríguez as a spot starter Sunday, giving Cole (and the rest of the rotation) an extra day's rest during a stretch of 16 games in 16 days.

But after Rodríguez gave up three runs in four innings Sunday, Cole wasn't much sharper Monday.

Ali Sánchez — who left the game in the seventh inning after getting drilled on the right wrist by a 98 mph fastball that required tests — roped an RBI double that put the Yankees up 1-0 in the second before the Tigers took the lead for good in the third. Zach McKinstry led off with a triple to the gap that left fielder José Caballero was unable to cut off before it bounced all the way to the wall.

McKinstry came in to score on a groundout that tied the game before the Tigers restarted a rally with two outs on a single and a walk. Spencer Torkelson then blooped a single to center that made it a 2-1 game before Cole left an 0-2 fastball down the middle to Colt Keith, who lined it for a single and the 3-1 lead.

After a leadoff single in the bottom of the fourth, a six-minute delay ensued as an infield dirt camera in front of second base became exposed. Jazz Chisholm Jr. tried to cover it up with dirt, but the grounds crew eventually came out to handle matters as Cole threw warmup pitches.

Cole retired the next batter before stud rookie shortstop Kevin McGonigle — on another 0-2 count — slapped a double to left field. Caballero fielded it off the short wall but then hesitated on the throw and misfired home, his throw tipping off Rosario's glove and bouncing to the backstop as the Tigers went up 4-1.

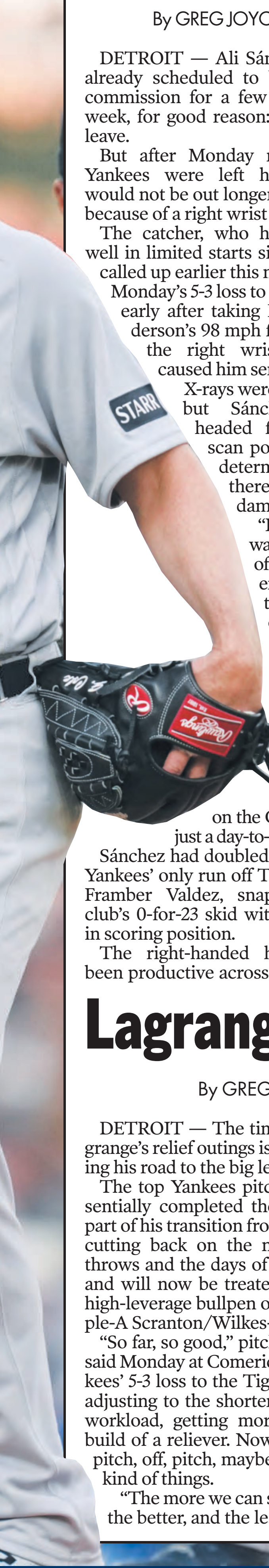
"They got nine hits and they just put a ton of pressure on us and played overall slightly better baseball," Cole said. "That's just the way it broke tonight."

gjoyce@nypost.com

NY
NEW YORK
45

OFF KEY: Aaron Boone removes Gerrit Cole during the fifth inning after the ace allowed five runs on nine hits in the Yankees' 5-3 loss to the Tigers. AP

Montefiore Einstein *Official Hospital of the New York Yankees*



Soon-to-be dad Sánchez exits after HBP on wrist

By GREG JOYCE

DETROIT — Ali Sánchez was already scheduled to be out of commission for a few days this week, for good reason: paternity leave.

But after Monday night, the Yankees were left hoping he would not be out longer than that because of a right wrist injury.

The catcher, who has played well in limited starts since being called up earlier this month, left Monday's 5-3 loss to the Tigers early after taking Drew Anderson's 98 mph fastball off the right wrist, which caused him serious pain. X-rays were negative, but Sánchez was headed for a CT scan postgame to determine if there was any damage.

"Initially, he was in a ton of pain, enough to take him out right away," manager Aaron Boone said. "Hopefully we get clean on the CT and it's just a day-to-day thing."

Sánchez had doubled home the Yankees' only run off Tigers lefty Framber Valdez, snapping the club's 0-for-23 skid with runners in scoring position.

THAT'S GOTTA HURT! Ali Sánchez reacts after being hit by a pitch on his right wrist during the seventh inning. Getty Images

The right-handed hitter has been productive across 10 games, batting .316 (6-for-19) with an .802 OPS and three RBIs.

"Feel like he's done a good job," Boone said. "I think he's more than held his own at the plate. Drove in our first run tonight with a really good at-bat. I thought both of his at-bats were really good and competitive and in control. That's been good to see. Hopefully this is just a day-to-day scenario."

With Sánchez planning to go on the paternity list any day, J.C. Escarra was already in Detroit with the Yankees on the taxi squad and would also replace him if an injured list stint is needed.

YANKEES NOTES

➤ The game was delayed six minutes in the fourth inning after an infield dirt camera became exposed. **Jazz Chisholm Jr.** tried to cover the camera in dirt or possibly remove it, to no avail, and the grounds crew eventually had to work on it as **Gerrit Cole** threw warmup pitches to stay loose.

"That's just part of it, I guess, 2026," Cole said. "I still made quality pitches coming out of the back of those delays, but not easy to deal with. Did the best we could."

➤ **Trent Grisham** is trending toward a return that may be even quicker than the Yankees had initially expected.

The outfielder, who has been on the injured list since June 13 with a "moderate" right hamstring strain, was moving well in agility drills in recent days before the Yankees left town and is expected to meet them this weekend at Fenway Park, where he will ramp up to full baseball activities — running the bases, taking batting practice and shagging fly balls in the outfield — before potentially playing in rehab games next week.

"We don't want to rush the ending of that," Boone said. "It is encouraging how good he is moving, how well he's moving. So we need to continue that trajectory and hopefully he's back sooner rather than later."

While Boone was mum on **Aaron Judge**, who is three weeks into a four-to-six-week timeline for reimaging on the stress fracture in his first right rib, he said that **Giancarlo Stanton** could "start to get ramped up a little bit" Tuesday, a little over a week after suffering a setback with his calf strain.

Lagrange 'adjusting' to pen as major role looms

By GREG JOYCE

DETROIT — The time between Carlos Lagrange's relief outings is getting shorter, meaning his road to the big leagues could be, too.

The top Yankees pitching prospect has essentially completed the "deload" process as part of his transition from starter to reliever — cutting back on the number of pitches he throws and the days of rest between them — and will now be treated more like a regular, high-leverage bullpen option this week at Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

"So far, so good," pitching coach Matt Blake said Monday at Comerica Park before the Yankees' 5-3 loss to the Tigers. "It seems like he's adjusting to the shorter duration, the shorter workload, getting more accustomed to the build of a reliever. Now we'll kind of get him pitch, off, pitch, maybe a back-to-back, those kind of things.

"The more we can simulate ahead of time, the better, and the less unknowns you have when he gets up here."

Lagrange's last outing came Sunday, when he threw a scoreless inning while pitching on two days' rest. Before that, he had thrown 1 $^2/_3$ innings (giving up four unearned runs) Thursday on three days' rest as the Yankees carefully scaled down his workload in scripted fashion.

Now, there will still be a schedule for when Lagrange pitches, but it will involve reading game situations for leverage spots rather than him knowing his exact inning in advance.

"I like what I saw from him [Sunday]," manager Aaron Boone said.

The transition remains a work in progress, aimed at developing Lagrange into a legitimate high-leverage bullpen option for the Yankees in the second half.

Blake and Boone both said all indications are that the 23-year-old right-hander has bounced back well physically from pitching more frequently on shorter rest than the five-, six- or seven-day routine he was used to as a starter.

And while the assumption was that Lagrange's stuff — including his fastball that already regularly hit triple digits as a starter — would play up in the bullpen, that hasn't necessarily been the case yet as he adjusts to the new physical demands of a reliever.

"Just learning how to recover and then be at full throttle on shorter turnarounds," Blake said. "There's some general thought that anytime you shorten a guy up, he's going to automatically gain velocity, but sometimes you're not getting recovered as often or as fully, and you're pitching on 90 percent instead of 100 percent more often. I think all those things come into play in learning how to navigate that."

In Sunday's 22-pitch outing, Lagrange threw nine four-seam fastballs that averaged 98.5 mph, eclipsing 100 mph twice.

"I mean, some days he throws 102," Boone said. "But for him, the changeup and slider are his real putaway pitches, more so than his fastball. He's doing well. He's focused and he's taking to it."

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INJURY REPORT

- **Trent Grisham** (right hamstring strain) is expected to go through full baseball activities this weekend in Boston. It could put him in position to be playing in rehab games by next week.
- **Max Fried** (left elbow bone bruise) is scheduled to face hitters next week, which would be his first time doing so since landing on the IL in mid-May.

ON DECK

at Tigers

Tuesday, 6:40 p.m., YES, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

LHP Carlos Rodón

2026 stats: 3-2, 3.50 ERA

Career vs. DET: 6-6, 5.44 ERA

Last start: Wed., vs. CWS; 5 IP, 3 ER, 7 SO

PITCH BREAKDOWN

44%	25%	16%
4-Seamer	Slider	Sinker

RHP Casey Mize

2026 stats: 2-4, 2.58 ERA

Career vs. NYY: 2-1, 3.63 ERA

Last start: Wed., at HOU; 4.2 IP, 3 ER, 3 SO

PITCH BREAKDOWN

33%	26%	25%
4-Seamer	Slider	Splitter

UP NEXT

WEDNESDAY: at Tigers, 6:40 p.m., Prime Video, WFAN
LHP Ryan Weathers vs. LHP Tarik Skubal

THURSDAY: at Red Sox, 7:10 p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD vs. TBD

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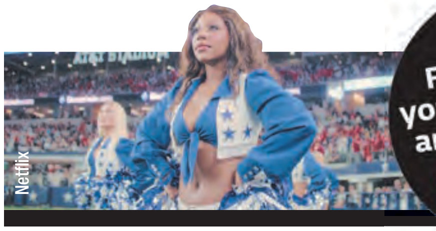
STREAM IT OR SKIP IT

In Season 3, **"America's Sweethearts: Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders"** (Netflix) continues to do a good job of showing how much the hopefuls and veterans work and sacrifice to make the DCC squad. We just wish the format was a little different this season. **OUR CALL: STREAM IT**



Netflix

WHAT TO WATCH

Never ever in the history of television, film, and general vibes in the space-time continuum has there been an award show for the girls, gays, and theys that also doubles as a comedy special. Never ever until 2025, that is, when Bowen Yang and Matt Rogers saw the division in the world and decided to give us a taped version of the **"Las Culturista Culture Awards,"** a night to celebrate pop culture, fun, and the most unserious people in the entertainment industry.

For more on your favorite TV and films, visit decider.com

DECIDER

WHAT TO WATCH. WHEREVER YOU WATCH

HBO

'MOMMY ISSUES'

'House of the Dragon' stars Olivia Cooke and Ewan Mitchell address that creepy kiss

Ewan Mitchell and Olivia Cooke (above, below) star in "House of the Dragon." New episodes air Sunday nights on HBO and HBO Max.

By MEGHAN O'KEEFE

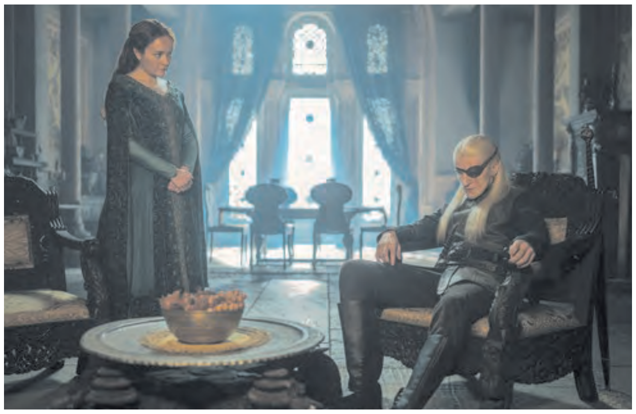
HBO‘s **"House of the Dragon"** Season 3 Episode 1 delivers everything we've come to expect from a **"Game of Thrones"** spin-off. There's intense political intrigue, dragons galore, epic battles, brilliant acting, a million characters with extra vowels in their names, and, yes, incest.

****Spoilers for "House of the Dragon" Season 3 Episode 1, "Salt and Seas, Fire and Blood," now streaming on HBO Max****

At one point in the "House of the Dragon" Season 3 premiere, Aemond Targaryen (Ewan Mitchell) shocks his horrified mother Alicent (Olivia Cooke) by kissing her on the mouth. The moment is all the more messed up because Alicent only goes along with it to convince Aemond to flee King's Landing so she can surrender the city, along with all of Westeros, to Rhaenyra (Emma D'Arcy).

"House of the Dragon" Season 2 ended with Alicent visiting Rhaenyra in secret to broker a deal to end the war. Alicent would open the gates to King's Landing so Rhaenyra could take the Iron Throne. If Alicent gives Rhaenyra her eldest son, Aegon (Tom Glynn-Carney), to kill in a final stroke of supremacy, Alicent, daughter Helaena (Phia Saban), and granddaughter Jaehaera will be able to leave the city safely. However, when Alicent arrives back in the Westerosi capital city, she learns that Aegon has fled, leaving Aemond in charge.

Aemond is resolute that he will not leave the city, so Alicent has to appeal to her son in any way possible. When she finally expresses some maternal love — albeit out of strategy — Aemond responds by kissing his mother in a romantic way. He agrees to leave for Harrenhal, leaving King's Landing undefended, and Alicent reeling.



Ironically, when DECIDER spoke to Ewan Mitchell last season about Aemond's affair with an older brothel worker, he insisted that his character didn't have "mommy issues." This time around, he changed his tune.

"Oh, he's got mommy issues," Ewan Mitchell told DECIDER. "Yeah, I can confirm."

"Can confirm," Mitchell's co-star Gayle Rankin, who plays Alys Rivers, Aemond's older woman love interest in George R.R. Martin's books, said in jest.

"Yeah, I don't know why… Like, why would you kiss your mom on the lips like that, Aemond? Oh, my God," Mitchell said. "Yeah, It's not a good look, but I can kind of understand, like where he's coming from it, weirdly enough."

"You know, he wants to assume that like male dominant figure in Team Green, so to speak," he continued. "He kind of might want to take a bride or like some sort of version of it. Yeah, just have some other figure who is that for him. I really hope it's not Alicent."

Olivia Cooke described the moment as "just pure shock and horror, really," and "unexpected" for Alicent.

"I think she's always been sort of confused by their relationship. I don't think she quite understood that there was like, Oedipal undertones," Cooke said. "That's not reciprocated on Alicent's side at all."

Cooke then went on to explain the logic driving Alicent in that charged moment.

"She's in a really dangerous predicament because he sits atop the Iron Throne and he is not of sound mind and he's very violent," Cooke said. "And so her next steps have to be tread very carefully from there on out."

"It's sort of like the most dangerous situation she's been put in, even though it's her son. And it's taken this very incestuous, intimate turn."

Earlier in that same episode, Helaena tells Alicent that Aemond is scared for the first time in his life since claiming Vhagar as a little boy. Alicent attempts to use this to reach Aemond, but he rebuffs the idea that he's scared of Rhaenyra and her new dragonriders. When DECIDER asked Mitchell if Aemond was lying, he immediately said, "Yeah, he's scared. He's really desperate. Desperate times, desperate measures."

"Aemond, he might feel like he has to overcompensate going forward after the raising of the dragonseeds. He really is on the back foot. He knows he can't beat this with brute force, and he can't take all of those guys on with just Vhagar," Mitchell said. He's probably terrified because at heart, he's still that little kid that we got to know in Season 1."

Warner Bros. Pictures

TRENDING NOW

Timothée Chalamet (left) and Selena Gomez are set to star in **"Not Alone,"** Illumination's next original animated feature. The film, which is scheduled to hit theaters on April 16, 2027, sees the two voice a rocket mechanic and an astro-botanist ahead of the launch of a "revolutionary rocket." But things take a turn once three aliens unexpectedly come into the picture.

WHAT'S NEW

ON HBO/HBO MAX

"**The Welcome Table**," a new documentary about climate migrants (left).

ON NETFLIX

"**Ryan Hamilton: This Just Hit Me**," a new standup special.

Best Bets

What's on Tonight

MYSTERY

Scream: 3:10 p.m. on PARSHO. David Arquette, Neve Campbell. A masked killer known as Ghostface begins murdering high school students in a town.

SPORT

2026 FIFA World Cup: 3:45 p.m. on WNYW 5. Ghana at England. Ghana snuck away with a win over Panama, England took care of Croatia, 4-2.

THRILLER

The Dark Knight: 9:30 p.m. on PARMT. Christian Bale, Michael Caine. The Joker wreaks havoc in Gotham, Batman must work put an end to the madness.

Tuesday June 23, 2026

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies 🟥 Sports 🟩 New 🟨

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	CBS Evening News	Inside Edition	Entertainment Tonight	NCIS: Sons and Daughters (R)		NCIS: Origins: Johnny B. Goode (R)		NCIS: Sydney: Turkey Shoot (R)		CBS News 11pm	(11:35) Comics
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	News 4 New York at 7	Access Hollywood	America's Got Talent: Auditions 4				Password: The Miz & Jimmy Fallon		News 4 New York at 11	(11:35) Tonight Show
5 WNYW	5	5	5	(6:45) 2026 FIFA World Cup: Croatia at Panama from Toronto Stadium. Live.					FIFA World Cup Today Live.		The 10 O'Clock News		Good Night New York	Feud Favorites (R)
7 WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune (R)	2026 NBA Draft: from Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y.. Live.						News	(11:35) Kimmel Live
9 WWOR	9	9	9	(6:00) 6 O'Clock News	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	The News on My 9		Chicago P.D.		WNBA Basketball: New York Liberty at Las Vegas Aces from Michelob ULTRA Arena. Live.			
11 WPIX	11	11	11	(6:00) PIX11 News at 6	Seinfeld: Ex-Girlfriend	The Big Bang Theory	WWE NXT Live.				PIX11 News at Ten		New York Nightcap	Seinfeld: Soul Mate
13 WNET	13	13	13	BBC News America	The PBS News Hour		Finding Your Roots: The Ties that Bind (R)		Lucy Worsley Investigates: The Break Up (R)		Frontline: Baby Brokers		Amanpour and Company	
21 WLIW	21	21	21	(6:00) News	My Life	(7:45) The Good Karma		(8:31) The Good Karma		(9:25) Silent Witness		Armadillo	BBC News	The Day
25 WNYE	25	22	25	The Chavis	County	Voces NYC	Walkin NYC	Discovery	Never Knew	Future	New York	Secrets NY	Lessons of Basketball	
31 WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) Fire	Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	N Univisi	La rosa de Guadalupe		Tan Cerca de Ti, Nace el		Guardián de mi Vida		Hermanas Un Amo		Noticias	N Univisio
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Copa Mundial de FIFA 2026: Croatia vs Panama. Directo.					Mundial	Copa Mundial de FIFA 2026: Congo vs Colombia. Directo.				
55 WLNY	55	10	10	Perfect (R)	Last Man	Last Man	News 8pm		48 Hours		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Neighbor.	Neighbor.
A&E	46	46	181	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Squatters	Squatters	Swamp Pat.	Swamp Pat.
AMC	54	43	231	Jurassic 3	Jurassic Park (1993, Science Fiction) Sam Neill. PG-13 ★★★½						The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) Jeff Goldblum.			
BBCAM	71	101	189	Pet Sematary Two (1992, Horror) Edward Furlong. ★★				Misery (1990, Thriller) James Caan. R ★★★½					Law & Order	
BET	37	54	270	(6:00) Feud	Celebrity Family Feud		(8:10) Family Feud		(9:20) Celebrity Family Feud			Martin	Martin	Martin
BRAVO	18	44	185	In City (R)	In The City (R)		In The City: Knot So Simple			In The City (R)		Rhode Island (R)		Housewives
CNBC	15	24	102	Money	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	78	25	100	(6:00) Lead	Erin Burnett OutFront		Anderson Cooper 360°		The Source with Kaitlan		CNN NewsNight		Laura Coates Live	
COMEDY	45	50	190	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Daily Show	Family Guy
DISC	66	27	120	Homestead Rescue: Obi Wan Adobe			Homestead Rescue		(9:01) Homestead Rescue: Uphill Battle (R)				Homestead: Poisoned (R)	
DISNEY	49	31	250	Big City	Big City	Big City	Phineas	Phineas	Vampirina	Phineas	Phineas	Kiff	Miraculous	Miraculous
E!	24	51	196	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)
ESPN	28	36	70	Sports	NBA Draft		NBA Draft						SportsCenter with Scott	
ESPN2	29	35	74	Interruption	ESPN Films		Banana Ball: Bananas vs. Indianapolis Clowns				Welcome to the NHL		E60	
FBN	43	106	117	Bottom	Kudlow (R)		Legends & Lies		Legends & Lies		Legends & Lies		Legends & Lies	
FNC	44	26	118	Spc. Rpt.	The Ingraham Angle		Jesse Watters Primetime		Hannity		Gutfeld!		Fox News @ Night	
FOOD	50	97	164	Chopped	Chopped		Chopped Castaways		Chopped Castaways		Chopped: No Kid Hungry		Chopped: Eggscuse Me	
FREE	38	49	199	(6:20) Ralph Breaks the Internet (2018, Comedy) John C. Reilly. ★★★					(8:55) Up (2009, Comedy) Ed Asner. PG ★★★½				The 700 Club (R)	
FS1	400	99	83	Evo Cup	Kevin Harvick's		Indycar NICS Racing		FIFA World Cup Live.		2026 FIFA World Cup: Congo at Colombia. Live.			
FX	10	40	53	Feelings R	It Ends with Us (2024, Drama) Blake Lively. PG-13						It Ends with Us (2024, Drama) Blake Lively. PG-13			
HALL		191	240	(6:00) The Perfect Pairing (2022)			Marry Go Round (2022, Romance) Amanda Schull. G				Golden	Golden	Golden	Golden
HGTV	64	98	165	Beach	Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Castle Impossible		Hunters	Australia	Australia	Hunters
HIST	40	47	128	The Secret	The Secret (R)		The Secret (R)		The Secret of Skinwalker		The Secret	(10:32) Proof Is There		Proof Out
ID	23	171	123	Evil Lives	Evil Lives: Killer Speaks		American Monster		Surviving a Serial Killer		Bodies in the Water		911: Did the Killer Call?	
LIFE	62	45	140	Castle	Castle: Resurrection		Castle: Reckoning		Castle: The Wrong Stuff		Castle: Hong Kong		Castle: At Close Range	
MeTV	33	33	3	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy	Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Golden	Golden	Burnett	P. Mason
MSG	27	87	78	(5:00) NHL	NHL Hockey				Club 30		NHL Hockey			
MSG Plus	48	88	80	High Stake	PokerGo High Stakes		UFA		United Fight Alliance		NHL Hockey: Seattle Kraken at New Jersey Devils.			
MSNOW	14	23	103	Ari Melber	The Weeknight		All in with Chris Hayes		The Briefing Jen Psaki		Lawrence O'Donnell		The 11th Hour with Ali	
MTV	20	53	210	Bang	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office
NATGEO	65	162	121	Survival (R)	Northwoods Survival (R)		Northwoods Survival (R)		Northwoods: Has Sprung		Life Below Zero (R)		Port Protection (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang
OWN	173	180	145	Deadline	Deadline: Tamron Hall		Deadline: Tamron Hall		Deadline: Tamron Hall		20/20 on OWN: NXIVM		20/20 on OWN	
PARMT	36	56	54	(6:00) The Departed (2006, Crime) Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon. R ★★★★						The Dark Knight (2008, Action) Christian Bale. PG-13 ★★★★				
SNY	26	60	77	(1:00) To Be Announced: Program information is currently unavailable.									Sports	Sports
SYFY	17	48	180	(4:00) 2012 (2009, Action)		Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (2018, Adventure) Chris Pratt. PG-13 ★★★						Pacific Rim (2013) Charlie Hunnam. ★★★		
TBS	8	39	52	Bang	MLB on TBS	MLB Baseball: Chicago Cubs at New York Mets from Citi Field. Live.						MLB on TBS	The Office	The Office
TCM	82	41	230	(6:15) Palm Springs Weekend (1963)			The Sting (1973, Comedy) Paul Newman. PG ★★★½				(10:15) Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (1969)			
TLC	52	28	139	Baylen (R)	Baylen Out Loud (R)		Baylen Out Loud		Baylen Out Loud		(10:01) Jay & Pamela		(11:01) Little Singles (R)	
TNT	3	37	51	(5:00) The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002)				(8:45) The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003, Fantasy) Ian McKellen. PG-13 ★★★★						
TVLAND	85	34	241	(6:24) Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	(9:20) Loves Raymond		Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Queens	Queens
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) SVU	Law & Order: SVU: Retro		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		WNBA Basketball Live.			
VH1	19	52	217	Wife/Kids	Wife/Kids	Wife/Kids	Wild Card (2015, Action) Jason Statham. R				Transporter 3 (2008, Thriller) Jason Statham. ★★½			
WE	59	42	149	Minds	Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds	
YES	53	89	76	(5:00) To Be Announced		To Be Announced: Program information is currently unavailable.						Sportico	To Be Announced	
HBO	511	301	400	(6:27) Marty Supreme (2025, Drama) Timothée Chalamet. R					The Welcome Table				(11:15) Of the Dragon (R)	
MAX	531	371	420	(6:50) Broken City (2013, Thriller) Mark Wahlberg, Russell Crowe. R ★★½								Maze Runner: The Death Cure (2018)		
MGM Plus	595		395	Novocaine (2025, Action) Jack Quaid. R			The Naked Gun (2025) Liam Neeson.			Sonic the Hedgehog 3 (2024, Action) Tika Sumpter.				Home 2
PARSHO	551	321	365	21 Jump St	Old School (2003) Luke Wilson. R ★★★			Masterminds (2016) Zach Galifianakis.			(10:05) Doin' It (2025, Comedy)			Winter R

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RANDLE TO NETS IN 3-TEAM DEAL

FORMER KNICKS STAR TO BROOKLYN AS CLAXTON GETS SHIPPED OUT / PAGE 49

THIRD STRAIGHT LOSS FOR YANKEES

P. 52-53

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026

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Charles Wenzelberg / NY Post, Jason Szenes

- Knicks could still go over apron to keep team mostly intact
- Dealing first-round pick could help cause

SECOND THOUGHTS

DRAFT 2026
ROUND 1
TONIGHT, 8:00
ABC, ESPN

GIANNIS MOVING TO MIAMI
PAGE 49

That talk last week about the Knicks not dipping into the dreaded second apron may have been a little premature. Signs now indicate they can cross that barrier — for one season only — to try to lock up key rotation pieces Mitchell Robinson and Landry Shamet. **BONDY / PAGES 48-49**

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